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Inhalt

OPDs in Uganda: Entwicklungsbroker zwischen nationaler, Politik, internationalen Organisationen und lokalen Bedürfnissen
Gitte Beckmann 4

Interculturality and the Concept of Disability in German Development Cooperation – An Investigation of Intercultural Challenges and Approaches
Anja Wilson 10

Berichte | Reports
The Inclusive Participation Toolbox – Meaningful Participation of Persons with Disabilities in International Cooperation 15

An AGENDA for Regional Disability Rights: From Network Building to Policy Implementation in Southeast Asia 19

Together for Inclusion – With DPOs in the Lead 23

Alle Rechte für alle Menschen mit Behinderungen – Pilotprojekt zur Förderung der Partizipation von Selbstvertretungsorganisationen (OPDs) in der schweizerischen internationalen Zusammenarbeit und humanitären Hilfe 27

Kurzmeldungen | Announcements 30

Literatur 34

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Editorial

Liebe Leser*innen,

die UN-Konvention über die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderung (UN-BRK) schreibt Organisationen von Menschen mit Behinderung (OPDs) eine besondere Rolle in der Beteiligung an Entscheidungsprozessen zu. Dies gilt insbesondere für alle Angelegenheiten, die Menschen mit Behinderung betreffen, auch im Rahmen der internationalen Zusammenarbeit. Dennoch werden sie weiterhin bei der Gestaltung von entwicklungspolitischen Agenden, Policies und Projekten kaum berücksichtigt. Das muss dringend korrigiert und geändert werden. Die fehlende Beteiligung unterläuft die Ziele der UN-BRK, die von der großen Mehrheit der Staatengemeinschaft anerkannt und verabschiedet worden sind.

Diese Ausgabe konzentriert sich auf Aktivitäten und Projekte, die die Beteiligung von OPDs in den Vordergrund stellen. So beleuchtet Gitte Beckmann die Entstehung der *Gulu Deaf Association* (GDA) in Uganda während des Bürgerkriegs und erörtert ihre Bedeutung für Menschen mit Hörbeeinträchtigung in der Region Acholi sowie ihre Rolle als *Entwicklungsbroker*. Darüber hinaus beinhaltet diese Ausgabe einen schwerpunktunabhängigen Artikel von Anja Wilson zur Interkulturalität und zum „Konzept der Behinderung" in der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit.

Diese wissenschaftlichen Artikel werden durch interessante Erfahrungsberichte ergänzt. Mira Ballmaier und Shivani Gupta stellen die *Inclusive Participation Toolbox* von CBM vor, die Akteuren der internationalen Zusammenarbeit Wissen zur Einbeziehung von Menschen mit Behinderung gibt. Rebecca Aaberg und Rachel Arnold befassen sich mit der Beteiligung von OPDs in Südostasien für einen verbesserten Zugang von Menschen mit Behinderung zu politischen Prozessen und Wahlen. Morten Eriksen und Eirin Kallestad von der Atlas Alliance stellen das Konsortium *Together for Inclusion* vor, in dem OPDs und Nichtregierungsorganisationen in einen gemeinsamen Lernprozess über die Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderung in der internationalen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit eintreten. Zuletzt berichtet Désirée Zaugg von CBM Schweiz über das Projekt *Alle Rechte für alle Menschen mit Behinderungen* und dessen Zielen, den Austausch und das gegenseitige Lernen zwischen OPDs des Globalen Südens und der Schweiz zu fördern.

Wir wünschen Ihnen eine bereichernde Lektüre!

Ihr Redaktionsteam

Dear readers,

the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) gives organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) a special role in participation in decision-making processes. This applies in particular to all matters affecting persons with disabilities, including in the context of international cooperation. However, they are still hardly taken into account in the design of development agendas, policies and projects. This must be urgently corrected and changed. The lack of participation undermines the goals of the UN CRPD, which have been recognised and adopted by the vast majority of the international community.

This issue focuses on activities and projects that put the participation of OPDs in the foreground. For example, Gitte Beckmann looks at the emergence of the Gulu Deaf Association (GDA) in Uganda during the civil war and discusses its importance for people with hearing impairment in the Acholi region and its role as a development broker. In addition, this issue includes a non-focused article by Anja Wilson on interculturality and the "concept of disability" in German development cooperation.

These academic articles are complemented by interesting field reports. Mira Ballmaier and Shivani Gupta present CBM's Inclusive Participation Toolbox, which gives actors in international cooperation knowledge on the inclusion of people with disabilities. Rebecca Aaberg and Rachel Arnold look at the participation of OPDs in Southeast Asia for improved access of persons with disabilities to political processes and elections. Morten Eriksen and Eirin Kallestad from the Atlas Alliance present the Together for Inclusion consortium, in which OPDs and NGOs engage in a joint learning process on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development cooperation. Finally, Désirée Zaugg from CBM Switzerland reports on the project *Alle Rechte für alle Menschen mit Behinderungen,* which aims to promote exchange and mutual learning between OPDs in the Global South and in Switzerland.

We wish you an enriching read!

Your editorial board

OPDs in Uganda: Entwicklungsbroker zwischen nationaler, Politik, internationalen Organisationen und lokalen Bedürfnissen

Gitte Beckmann

Inmitten des Bürgerkriegs zwischen der *Lord's Resistance Army* und den Regierungstruppen in Acholi, Norduganda, erhielten immer mehr gehörlose Menschen die Möglichkeit, die Ugandische Gebärdensprache zu erlernen. Während dieser Zeit erheblicher nationaler politischer Veränderungen sowie internationaler Verschiebungen im Entwicklungssektor wurde 1996 die *Gulu Deaf Association*, eine lokale Organisation von Menschen mit Behinderung (OPD), als Teil einer größeren nationalen und internationalen Bewegung gegründet. Basierend auf langjähriger Feldforschung in Acholi werde ich zeigen, wie die Arbeit der OPD das Leben gehörloser Menschen in der Region verändert hat. Indem ich OPDs als Entwicklungsbroker anspreche, werde ich die Arbeit lokaler und nationaler OPDs zwischen nationaler Politik, internationalen Organisationen und lokalen Bedürfnissen näher beleuchten.

Einleitung

Die überwiegende Zahl gehörloser Erwachsener in Acholi, Norduganda, lernte die Ugandische Gebärdensprache (UgSL) in Sprachkursen, die von der *Gulu Deaf Association* (GDA), einer lokal ansässigen OPD organisiert wurden, in der Schule, in Workshops und Trainings, in Gottesdiensten und zusammen mit einem immer größer werdenden sozialen Netzwerk gehörloser Menschen. Während heute die meisten gehörlosen Menschen Teil eines solchen Netzwerkes sind, das ihren Alltag und ihre Perspektiven mitbestimmt, sahen ihre Leben vor 30 Jahren in der Region Acholi und ihre Möglichkeiten, den Lebensunterhalt zu bewerkstelligen, sehr anders aus. Der weitaus größte Teil der Bevölkerung lebte von der Subsistenzlandwirtschaft in den ländlich geprägten Räumen. Für gehörlose Menschen bedeutete dies häufig, dass sie die einzigen gehörlosen Personen in einem Dorf waren und sie wenig oder keinen Kontakt mit anderen gehörlosen Menschen hatten. Mit dem Bürgerkrieg zwischen der *Lord's Resistance Army* und dem Ugandischen Militär (1986-2006) änderte sich dies. In diesem Text werde ich die Entstehung der GDA während des Bürgerkriegs und ihre Bedeutung für gehörlose Menschen in der Region Acholi sowie ihre Rolle als Entwicklungsbroker (Bierschenk et. al. 2002) beschreiben. Die Informationen basieren auf meiner mehrjährigen Feldforschung in Acholi und wurden im Rahmen meiner Promotion zusammengetragen.

Neue Orte der Begegnung

Uganda ist ein Binnenstaat in Ostafrika und erlangte seine Unabhängigkeit 1962. Das ehemalige britische Protektorat war von einem Ungleichgewicht zwischen dem wirtschaftlich besser gestellten Süden und dem vor allem auf Subsistenzlandwirtschaft geprägten Norden sowie politischer Instabilität geprägt. Die ersten 25 Jahre nach der Unabhängigkeit können als ein gewaltsames Ringen um politische Macht und Einflussnahme gesehen werden. Ethnizität spielte eine wichtige Rolle bei den Manipulationen militärischer und postkolonialer Politik. Dies zeigt sich unter anderem in der Zusammensetzung des Militärs. Die ethnische Gruppe Acholi

stellten unter der ersten Präsidentschaft von Obote (1966-1971) die Mehrheit der Armee. Mit dem Putsch von Idi Amin 1971 wurden Acholi nicht nur aus den Streitkräften entlassen, sondern viele Tausende getötet (Branch 2011:57). In seiner zweiten Amtszeit (1980-1985) brachte Obote viele Acholi zurück in einflussreiche Positionen. Im Jahr 1986 putschte sich der bis heute amtierende ugandische Präsent Yoweri K. Museveni an die Macht. Während diese Machtübernahme als Ende der kriegerischen Auseinandersetzungen um die nationale Vorherrschaft beschrieben wird, traf dies nicht auf die Region Acholi zu (Finnström 2008; Muyinda 2013). Gruppen wie die *Holy Spirit Mobile Forces* und vor allem die *Lord's Resistance Army* (LRA) agierten als militärisch strukturierte Organisationen in der Region.

1996 veranlasste die ugandische Regierung, die Bevölkerung in Acholi in Städte wie etwa Gulu oder in Flüchtlingslager umzusiedeln. Dies sollte Schutz vor Überfällen bieten und zugleich die Versorgungsmöglichkeiten der LRA einschränken. Das größte dieser Camps war mit etwa 60.000 Menschen der Ort Pabbo. In den Städten und Camps lebten viele Menschen auf engem Raum zusammen, die vorher weit voneinander entfernt gewohnt hatten. Gehörlose Menschen lernten in diesen Zentren andere gehörlose Menschen kennen. Gleichzeitig erreichten inmitten des Krieges Projekte der ugandischen Behindertenbewegung die Region Acholi. Eines der Entwicklungsprogramme hatte das Ziel, die Ugandische Gebärdensprache im Land zu verbreiten. Wichtiger Akteur für die Region Acholi wurde die *Gulu Deaf Association* (GDA).

Die Gulu Deaf Association (GDA)

Die Gründung und der Aufbau der GDA waren zentrale Momente für die Verbreitung der Ugandischen Gebärdensprache in Norduganda (Beckmann 2022). Das erste Treffen gehörloser Menschen wurde von der internationalen Organisation *Action on Disability and Development* (ADD; heute ADD International) organisiert und über das Radio – die am weitesten verbreitete Technologie, wenn auch nicht direkt zugänglich für gehörlose Menschen – bekannt gegeben. Gehörlose Menschen erfuhren davon durch Familienangehörige. Zu dem Treffen kamen etwa 40 gehörlose Menschen aus verschiedenen Regionen Acholis. Während des Treffens wurde die GDA als eine lokal und regional agierende Organisation von und für gehörlose Menschen gegründet. Dies geschah im Jahr 1996, nur ein Jahr nachdem Uganda Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen in der Verfassung verankert hatte und vier Jahre nach der UN *Decade of Disabled People* (1983-1992).

Die GDA war Teil einer größeren Bewegung. Neben der nationalen Dachorganisation aller Menschen mit Behinderungen, NUDIPU, gab es nationale Dachorganisationen u.a. für Blinde (UNAB), Menschen mit körperlichen Behinderungen (UNAPD) und für gehörlose Menschen (UNAD). Diese übergeordneten OPDs förderten den Aufbau weiterer regional und lokal wirkender OPDs im ganzen Land, so auch den Aufbau der GDA. Wie auf nationaler Ebene wurden auf regionaler Ebene neben der GDA andere OPDs in Gulu gegründet (von und für blinde Menschen, für Frauen mit Behinderungen etc.). Diese sind wiederum unter der lokalen Dachorganisation *Gulu Disabled Union* (GDU) miteinander verbunden.

Diese Dezentralisierung und gleichzeitige Hierarchisierung war eng verbunden mit dem politischen System der führenden Partei Musevenis, der *National Resistance Movement* (NRM). Der Aufbau der OPDs erfolgte in enger Zusammenarbeit mit der NRM (Ndeezi 2004:17). Wie in dem NRM System, indem zunächst alle Menschen Ugandas als Mitglieder angesehen wurden, so zählte auch NUDIPU alle Menschen mit Behinderungen als zur Bewegung zugehörig (Ndeezi 2004: 8). NUDIPU hatte ihren Sitz in Kampala. Zu ihren Aufgaben zählte neben der Ausbildung von Trainer*innen und dem Aufbau regionaler und lokaler Strukturen, Lobbyarbeit vor allem auf national und internationaler Ebene. Die Arbeit der GDUs auf regionaler und lokaler Ebene war hingegen eher geprägt von lokaler Politik und der Verbesserung der Lebensverhältnisse der Menschen mit Behinderung vor Ort.

Die enge Verknüpfung der OPDs zur NRM wurde zudem durch ihre Repräsentanten sichtbar. In Uganda wurden Repräsentant*innen für Menschen mit Behinderungen auf allen politischen Ebenen gewählt. Auf lokaler Ebene (LC1 und LC2) wurden jeweils eine Frau und ein Mann als Repräsentant*innen gewählt. 2016 waren dies insgesamt 334.528 Repräsentant*innen. Inwiefern es ihnen gelungen ist, sich in die lokale Politik einzubringen, ist jedoch nicht bekannt. Auf nationaler Ebene gab es vier administrative Regionen (die nördliche, östliche, westliche und zentrale Region), in denen Repräsentant*innen gewählt wurden. Hier war auffällig, dass vor allem Parteimitglieder, die auch einen engen Bezug zu den OPDs haben, teilweise über Jahrzehnte diese Positionen besetzten (Beckmann 2018; Muyinda/Whyte 2022).

Die OPDs bildeten eine wichtige Anlaufstelle für Menschen mit Behinderungen. Die GDA in Gulu hatte ein Büro auf einem Compound zusammen mit anderen OPDs. Während des Krieges lebten Menschen mit Behinderungen auf dem Compound, um sich

Mit dem Erlernen der Ugandischen Gebärdensprache veränderte sich auch die Perspektive, das Verständnis von Behinderung selbst.

vor Überfällen und Angriffen zu schützen. Nach dem Krieg bot dieser Raum für Workshops und Trainings, Gebärdensprachunterricht, sowie Gottesdienste in Gebärdensprache. Hier trafen sich Menschen mit Behinderungen jeden Tag, um sich auszutauschen, an einem der Workshops teilzunehmen oder auch Hilfe und Unterstützung zu bekommen.

Vor allem zu Beginn stellte die Kommunikation zwischen Mitarbeitenden internationaler und nationaler Organisationen und gehörloser Menschen in Acholi, eine Herausforderung dar. Abhängig von verschiedenen Faktoren (u.a. dem Alter, dem Zeitpunkt des Erwerbs der Hörschädigung, den Familienbeziehungen und der Unterstützung seitens der Familie, dem Zugang zu Schulen, aber auch der ökonomischen Situation) wurden unterschiedliche Kommunikationsformen genutzt: lokale Gebärden, die Ugandische Gebärdensprache, Lippenlesen, Schreiben und Lesen. Um die Kommunikation zu vereinfachen und zu verbessern, Informationen einfacher verbreiten zu können, und um bessere Partizipation (politisch, beruflich, etc.) gehörloser Menschen zu ermöglichen, wurde die Verbreitung der Ugandischen Gebärdensprache als zentral angesehen.

Die geplante Einführung der Sprache erfolgte durch Trainings, die mit einem Schneeballprinzip arbeiteten. Die Trainings wurden auf nationaler Ebene von der Dachorganisation, NUDIPU, organisiert. Unter dem Namen *Capacity Building*, übernahm auf regionaler Ebene die GDA die Aufgabe in Acholi. Dies führte zu der Situation, dass vor allem jene, die entweder lesen und schreiben konnten, oder die wenigen, die eine Schule für Gehörlose in einem anderen Teil des Landes besuchen konnten, für die neu geschaffenen Positionen als Gebärdensprachtrainer*innen ausgewählt wurden. Die Trainer*innen reisten jeweils für einige Tage von Gulu in die Hauptstadt Kampala und erhielten dort Unterricht in Ugandischer Gebärdensprache sowie Informationen über die Rechte für Menschen mit Behinderungen, aber auch über das neue Verständnis von Behinderung. In diesem wurde Behinderung nicht länger als individuelles und medizinisches Problem gesehen, sondern ganzheitlich als ein Zusammenspiel gesellschaftlicher, individueller und umweltbezogener Faktoren begriffen. Behinderung wurde als Sammelbezeichnung vieler vorher z.T. unterschiedlich kategorisierter Krankheiten eingeführt. In dem neuen Verständnis, welches die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen zentral stellte, ging es darum, gesellschaftliche und gesellschaftsstrukturelle Barrieren abzubauen.

Für gehörlose Menschen wurde mit dem Erlernen und Praktizieren der Ugandischen Gebärdensprache das neue Verständnis von Behinderung nicht nur als Information in Workshops weitergegeben, sondern verkörpert (*embodied*). Durch die Sprache wurden aus in der Gesellschaft vereinzelt lebenden gehörlosen Menschen neue Netzwerke und es entstand eine neue Kategorie oder Gruppe. Die Höreinschränkung wurde als identitätsstiftend und nicht länger nur als Ausgrenzung erfahren. Mit dem Erlernen der Ugandischen Gebärdensprache veränderte sich auch die Perspektive, das Verständnis von Behinderung selbst (Beckmann 2022). Gleichzeitig wurden mit und in den neu geschaffenen sozialen Netzwerken eigene Positionen, Rollen und Ansichten hinterfragt. So konnte ich bei meinen Gesprächsteilnehmer*innen eine Abkehr von Vorstellungen erfahren, wie zum Beispiel die Erklärung, dass angeborene Gehörlosigkeit auf Tabubrüche und traditionell religiöse Ursachen zurück zu führen sei. Gleichzeitig wurden mit dem christlichen Glauben zu vereinbarende Praktiken bevorzugt. Neben den Trainings spielten die später gegründeten Schulsektionen und die Kirche von und für gehörlose Menschen eine wichtige Rolle in der Vermittlung und Diskussion von Werten und dem Verständnis von Behinderung. Hier trafen verschiedene Vorstellungen und Erfahrungen aufeinander, die durch die Einführung der UgSL in den neuen sozialen Netzwerken und darüber hinaus mit den Familien und Arbeitskolleg*innen diskutiert wurden.

Neue Positionen und Aufgaben

Die Gründung der GDA beinhaltete die Schaffung neuer Positionen und Rollen und neue Möglichkeiten für die Teilnahme von Gehörlosen, Zugang zu verschiedenen Ressourcen und Informationen zu bekommen und soziale Beziehungen auszubauen. Neben den Trainer*innen der Ugandischen Gebärdensprache

wurden Mitglieder des Vorstands, Mitarbeitende verschiedener Komitees sowie Lehrer*innen an neu gegründeten Abteilungen für gehörlose Kinder in einer Schule in Gulu eingestellt oder gewählt. Die Personen in diesen Positionen erhielten weitere Fortbildungen und lernten dadurch die Sprache und Codes, sowie die Logik, Diskurse und Argumentation der nationalen Organisationen von Menschen mit Behinderungen (OPDs) und internationalen Organisationen. Sie wurden zu wichtigen Vermittler*innen oder Entwicklungsbrokern (Bierschenk et. al. 2002). Sie waren sowohl Teil der lokalen Bevölkerung als auch Teil der neu geschaffenen Gruppen gehörloser Menschen und Menschen mit Behinderungen und gleichzeitig lernten sie, auch durch Aufenthalte im Ausland, die Menschen mit Behinderungen in ihrer Region und ihrem Land entsprechend der Sprache und zugleich Kategorien (z.B. in Form der Definitionen von Behinderung) der Entwicklungsorganisationen zu (re)präsentieren. Während auf lokaler Ebene konkrete Bedürfnisse wie u.a. die Unterstützung bei der Aufbringung des Schulgeldes, die Beschaffung von Kleidung, die Sicherstellung von Transport und die gleichberechtigte Gesundheitsversorgung im Vordergrund standen, drehte sich auf nationaler Ebene alles um die Rechte Gehörloser und die Verankerung dieser Rechte in die ugandische Verfassung.

Die Projekte, die in Gulu durchgeführt wurden, zielten auf eine Verbesserung der Lebensverhältnisse von gehörlosen Menschen ab. Sie waren auf eine kurze Zeitspanne angelegt, von Tagesworkshops bis Trainings, die sich über mehrere Monate erstreckten. Der Fokus änderte sich je nach den Richtlinien der internationalen Organisationen. Es gab Informationsveranstaltungen über HIV/AIDS, zum Thema Menschenrechte, aber auch Trainings im landwirtschaftlichen Bereich und in Form kurzer Ausbildungsprogramme in der Eisenverarbeitung, Tischlerei oder dem Schneiderhandwerk. Die GDA wurde ein wichtiger Anlaufpunkt für internationale Organisationen. Sie arbeitete mit zahlreichen Akteuren der Entwicklungspolitik (u.a. mit AVSI, Save the Children Uganda, One Vision, the UN Human Rights Commissioner, Uganda Human Rights Focus, UNHCR, und NUMAT) zusammen.

Mit den Geldgebern aus dem Ausland (internationale Organisationen, Nichtregierungsorganisationen/NGOs, OPDs) entwickelte sich eine Nische für nationale und lokale OPDs im Bereich der internationalen Zusammenarbeit. OPDs agierten in dieser Nische als Entwicklungsbroker. Zunächst waren es nur wenige internationale Organisationen, die Projekte für Menschen mit Behinderungen förderten. In den letzten Jahren wurde dieses Nischendasein mehr und mehr aufgebrochen und Behinderung zunehmend als Querschnittsthema in Entwicklungsprogrammen und Projekten berücksichtig. Um den Einbezug und die Partizipation von Menschen mit Behinderungen in den Projekten zu gewährleisten, kommt den OPDs zunehmend die wichtige Rolle zu, ihre Perspektiven in die Projekte einzubringen und diese so inklusiver zu gestalten.

Der Gendergap

Nach dem Krieg 2006 wurde die Stadt Gulu zu einem Magneten für gehörlose junge Erwachsene. Sie halfen einander, sich in der Stadt zu orientieren, eine Unterkunft und einen Job zu finden. Vor allem Männer arbeiteten in der Stadt, um Lastwagen zu be- und entladen, in der Reismühle oder als Tischler im nahe gelegenen Ort Lacor in der Krankenhaustischlerei. Die Mehrheit der Gehörlosen hatten zumindest einen der berufsbildenden Workshops und Trainings (Tischler, Schneider, Ziegelherstellung, Kerzenherstellung, Imker, Weber) absolviert, allerdings arbeitete fast niemand von ihnen tatsächlich anschließend in dem erlernten Beruf. Familien schickten häufig ihre Kinder und Angehörigen zu den Workshops, in der Hoffnung, dass dies ihre Einkommensmöglichkeiten vergrößerte. Worin sich allerdings alle einig waren, war, dass sie durch diese Workshops wichtige soziale Kontakte knüpfen konnten und ihre Ugandische Gebärdensprache verbesserten. Durch die sozialen Kontakte erhielten sie mehr Informationen und Zugang zu Ressourcen. Die Nähe zur Stadt Gulu und zu anderen gehörlosen Menschen wurde als bedeutend angesehen, um einen Job zu finden und Hilfe und Unterstützung zu bekommen. Dies trifft vor allem auf Männer zu: Die Möglichkeiten, nun als gehörlose Person in Gulu zu arbeiten, um damit die eigene Familie auf dem Land zu unterstützen, war zwar für hörende Menschen selbstverständlich, für gehörlose Menschen bot dies aber eine neue Perspektive.

Die Situation vieler Frauen sah jedoch anders aus. Nach dem Ende des Bürgerkrieges zogen viele Familien auf ihr Land zurück, um dieses zu bewirtschaften. Schulen waren zudem meist günstiger auf dem Land und damit einfacher zu finanzieren. Von Frauen wurde erwartet, dass sie sich um die Kinder kümmern, den Haushalt organisieren und die Gartenarbeit übernehmen. Die Diversifizierung des Einkommens durch die Kombination von Subsistenzlandwirtschaft, Jobs (zumeist in Städten oder Dorfzentren) und zusätzlicher Hilfe durch Organisationen in Form von Nutztieren (Hühner, Schweine, Kühe, Ziegen) und der

Übernahme von Schulgeldern wurde von den Familien als sehr wichtig gesehen. Das hatte gleichzeitig zur Folge, dass Frauen auf dem Land oftmals wieder allein unter Hörenden blieben. Obwohl sie gehörlose Partner hatten und sie von ihrer Schulzeit oder von den Workshops und Trainings andere gehörlose Freund*innen kannten, waren Treffen eher selten. Hierdurch entstand ein neues Ungleichgewicht an sozialen Netzwerken und damit Informationen, Möglichkeiten und Perspektiven für Männer in den Städten im Gegensatz Frauen in familiär-sozialen Strukturen und gleichzeitigen Erwartungen an sie auf dem Land. Einige meiner Gesprächspartnerinnen fanden Jobs in anderen Haushalten und kleinen Pensionen in der Stadt. Der Wunsch, etwa als Krankenschwester oder Lehrerin arbeiten zu können, wurde ihnen aufgrund der fehlenden Schulbildung aber auch entgegengebrachter Vorurteile verwehrt. Der Zugang zu Schulbildung und Ausbildung, sowie die Offenheit gehörlosen Menschen Berufschancen zu bieten, ist nach wie vor wichtig.

Dies trifft vor allem auch auf gehörlose Kinder zu, die mit ihren Eltern zurück in ihre Dörfer kehrten. Die Rückkehr in die Dörfer brachte für Eltern gehörloser Kinder die Herausforderung mit sich, diese möglichst früh mit gehörlosen Menschen zu verbinden und in die nach wie vor wenigen Schulen zu schicken, die Unterricht in Gebärdensprache anbieten. Oftmals fehlt das Wissen über die Bedeutung, die ein Austausch gehörloser Kinder untereinander mit sich bringen kann, und es fehlen Informationen und Netzwerke zwischen den Familien. Manchmal kümmern sich gehörlose Erwachsene um die Kinder, die unweit von ihrem Zuhause leben. Wünschenswert wären solche Netzwerke innerhalb der Gemeinschaften auf dem Land weiter auszubauen und Treffpunkte oder Anlaufstellen für Familien mit gehörlosen Kindern zu schaffen. Hierbei reicht es allerdings nicht nur Informationen weiterzugeben, sondern einen Zugang zum sich mittlerweile über ganz Acholi spannendem sozialen Netzwerk gehörloser Menschen zu bekommen.

Schulen, die Unterricht in Gebärdensprache anbieten, sind für Familien, die weiter entfernt wohnen mit zusätzlichen Kosten verbunden. Neben den Transportkosten sind es vor allem die Ausgaben für die Unterkunft in den Boarding Schools eine enorme finanzielle Belastung. Während meines Forschungsaufenthalts gab es nur wenige Möglichkeiten über NGOs finanzielle Unterstützung zu bekommen, allerdings für jene Familien, die diese bekamen, enorm entlastend.

Zukünftige Rolle der OPDs

Mit der Verschiebung im internationalen Entwicklungssektor in den 1980er Jahren, in dem Entwicklungsgelder zunehmend an NGOs und weniger an Staaten vergeben wurden, wurde die Rolle der Vermittler oder Entwicklungsbroker in neuem Umfang bedeutend. Afrikanische Staaten sind auf internationale Finanzierung angewiesen, und die Mobilisierung von Entwicklungshilfe in Form von Programmen und Projekten ist eine wichtige Aufgabe für Entwicklungsbroker auf lokaler, nationaler und auch internationaler Ebene. Entwicklungsbroker arbeiten und agieren in einem *Dazwischen* und übersetzen Vorstellungen, Ideen, und Wissen in die verschiedenen Bereiche. OPDs entwickelten sich zu Entwicklungsbrokern auf lokaler und nationaler Ebene und werden im Zuge weiterer Inklusionsarbeit in der Entwicklungsarbeit auch in Zukunft eine Rolle spielen. Hierbei sind sie jedoch nicht unbedingt politisch neutral, wie das Beispiel Ugandas zeigt. Zudem agieren vor allem nationale Entwicklungsbroker oftmals losgelöst von den Realitäten jener, für die die Projekte und Programme angedacht sind. Dies zeigte sich u.a. in dem Angebot der Ausbildungsprogramme und Workshops, die gehörlosen Menschen in Gulu zur Verfügung standen. Nach Abschluss der vor allem handwerklich ausgerichteten Workshops arbeitet nur ein sehr kleiner Teil tatsächlich anschließend in den Bereichen. Nach wie vor werden diese aber weiterhin seitens nationaler Entwicklungsbroker und vor allem internationaler Organisationen gefördert. Eine wichtige Rolle der OPD ist, ihre Rolle als Repräsentantinnen weiter auszubauen und auf Zusammenhänge aufgrund von Erfahrungen einzugehen, zu diversifizieren und dadurch neue Ansätze aus der Perspektive der Menschen vor Ort zu entwickeln und hierbei ganz expliziert jene mit einzubeziehen, denen am Ende damit geholfen werden soll.

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Summary

In the midst of the civil war between the Lord's Resistance Army and government forces in Acholi, northern Uganda, more and more deaf people were given the opportunity to learn Ugandan Sign Language. During this period of significant national political change as well as international shifts in the development sector, the Gulu Deaf Association, a local OPD, was established in 1996 as part of a larger national and international movement. Based on many years of field research in Acholi, I will show how the work of the OPD has changed the lives of deaf people in the region. Addressing OPDs as development brokers, I will shed more light on the work of local and national OPDs between national policies, international organisations and local needs.

Résumé

En pleine guerre civile entre la Lord's Resistance Army (l'Armée de résistance du Seigneur) et les forces gouvernementales à Acholi, dans le nord de l'Ouganda, de plus en plus de sourds ont eu la possibilité d'apprendre la langue des signes ougandaise. En cette période de changements politiques nationaux importants et de changements internationaux dans le secteur du développement, la Gulu Deaf Association, une organisation locale pour les personnes handicapées (OPD), a été créée en 1996 dans le cadre d'un mouvement national et international plus large. En me basant sur des années de recherche sur le terrain à Acholi, je montrerai comment le travail de l'OPD a changé la vie des personnes sourdes dans la région. En abordant les OPD en tant que courtiers en développement, j'examinerai de plus près le travail des OPD locales et nationales entre la politique nationale, les organisations internationales et les besoins locaux.

Resumen

En plena guerra civil entre el Ejército de Resistencia del Señor y las fuerzas gubernamentales en Acholi, al norte de Uganda, cada vez más personas sordas tuvieron la oportunidad de aprender la lengua de signos ugandesa. Durante este periodo de importantes cambios políticos nacionales, así como de cambios internacionales en el sector del desarrollo, se creó en 1996 la Asociación de Sordos de Gulu, una organización local de personas con discapacidad (OPD), como parte de un movimiento nacional e internacional más amplio. Basándome en muchos años de investigación sobre el terreno en Acholi, mostraré cómo el trabajo de la OPD ha cambiado la vida de las personas sordas de la región. Abordando las OPD como intermediarias del desarrollo, arrojaré más luz sobre la labor de las OPD locales y nacionales entre las políticas nacionales, las organizaciones internacionales y las necesidades locales.

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Interculturality and the Concept of Disability in German Development Cooperation – An Investigation of Intercultural Challenges and Approaches

Anja Wilson

The barriers faced by people with disabilities may vary from one culture to another and may be perceived differently by their members. This also applies to disability in general: Not all cultures define disability in the same way, and attitudes towards people with disabilities can vary widely between cultures as well as within a culture (Cobley 2018: 8). Therefore, sustainable development calls for individual and culture-specific approaches (GIZ GmbH 2015: 29). This article presents the research results obtained in the context of a master thesis conducted at the Regensburg University of Applied Sciences in cooperation with *bezev*. The thesis explores how German development cooperation staff deal with intercultural challenges regarding disability.

Research

Nine interviewees were questioned on approaches to inclusion and the concept of disability in German development cooperation. An in-depth literature research was conducted prior to the interviews. Due to the lack of data on the inclusion of people with disabilities, no valuable research hypotheses could be made. Therefore, the researcher decided to conduct a qualitative, exploratory study. The interviews were conducted via video call over a period of nine weeks and lasted 30 to 60 minutes. Four of the interviewees worked for German disability-specific NGOs, one person for the German office of an internationally operating foreign NGO, and four of the interviewees were self-advocates with disabilities from Kenya, South Africa, and India. To ensure comparability and allow for unexpected findings, the researcher used a semi-structured interview guide. The interviewees names, the names of others mentioned, the employers, and other information that could allow conclusions to the interviewee's identities were anonymised. The goal was to develop recommendations for action that can serve both disability-specific and mainstream organisations as approaches for successful intercultural and inclusive collaboration.

Relevance

To ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in development projects, a comprehensive knowledge of culturally specific barriers is essential. They must be considered and addressed in all steps of a project. Barriers that are not addressed cannot be reduced. Attitudinal barriers and institutional barriers in particular are subject to strong cultural influence (Cobley 2018: 8). To be able to dismantle them, NGOs must have in-depth and disaggregated knowledge and data about the respective life realities of people with disabilities at the project locations. The respective literature has repeatedly pointed to insufficient data regarding the living conditions of people with disabilities and local barriers (BMZ 2019: 10). The difficulty in measuring and the large local differences regarding attitudinal barriers can impair the target group analysis and thus the overall

success of a project. The research is of relevance because it raises the awareness of intercultural aspects such as cultural barriers in the inclusion of people with disabilities in development cooperation. This is a crucial step towards more inclusive development projects. The derived recommendations serve as starting points for German NGOs as well as other Western development cooperation organisations for a human rights-based approach to disability inclusive development cooperation.

Research Findings

During the source work, the researcher did profound research on the topic of intercultural and intracultural variability in the perceptions of people with disabilities. Intercultural variability describes a culture-dependent perception of people with disabilities, where the response to people with disabilities is relatively homogenous within a culture. There are several arguments in favour of intercultural variability, such as the fact that knowledge about or the expectations of a functioning body may be tied to a culture. Nevertheless, there are some arguments in favour of intracultural variability. There are behaviours and attitudes toward people with disabilities that are culture-independent and occur in many cultures. Thus, they may be cross-cultural, culture-specific, or subculture-specific. Neubert and Cloerkes describe reactions to people with disabilities as a mixture of the culture, the personality, the situation, and the object (Neubert/Cloerkes 2001: 12-16). However, they attribute the greatest importance to the cultural component. Intracultural variability was confirmed by almost everyone interviewed for the research. Several interviewees reported on similarities regarding the perception of people with disabilities between regions such as West Africa or East Asia. Therefore, the researcher would like to add the term of intraregional comparability to the discussion.

A key finding of the interviews was the fact that some employees of German development cooperation expressed hesitations in giving the country offices more responsibility over, for example, financial resources. Also, the research found that employees often consider attention to other diversity issues a hindrance to the inclusion of people with disabilities. Furthermore, the interviews have shown differences in meaning, especially when it comes to the concept of inclusion. They have often led to misunderstandings and negatively influenced the project results. Moreover, the self-advocates commented several times that in the past German NGOs had tried to impose on other cultures the interventions they developed in Germany. In addition, they had often tried to transfer intervention concepts from one culture to another. Even though there has been a positive development in this regard, they still occasionally observe this phenomenon. In doing so, NGOs would rely on international rights or the inclusion strategy as a justification for inclusion interventions. In addition, the medical and welfare models of disability still seem to predominate in German development cooperation. The interviews have shown that in some project countries, the models are also still prevalent, especially so in highly religious regions.

The research also found that local organisations are sometimes afraid to criticise the interventions of German organisations due to fear of budget cuts. Some self-advocates expressed the opinion that the organisations would defend their monopoly on power. However, there has been some positive development in this regard since in some projects, all stakeholders must be heard before a project's approval. Also, the model of equal application in which all parties have the same rights is becoming more popular.

Both the German employees and the self-advocates have addressed the problem of low representativeness of self-advocates. According to both sides, this can be due to the elite status they have within the disabled community because of e.g., their social status. This adds another dimension to the discrimination of people with disabilities since they are no longer just discriminated against in their country but also within their own community. Additionally, some interviewees mentioned that self-advocates can become alienated from their communities through their close collaboration with Western organisations and thereby lose sight of their community's needs, which would impair their representativeness even more. This puts German organisations in a difficult situation when choosing DPOs (Disabled Persons' Organisations), because they need to meet certain criteria while still representing their community.

From the interviews as well as the preliminary discussions with *bezev,* the researcher concludes that some responsibilities regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities have not been clarified. This includes, among other things, the responsibility for the funding instruments for DPOs recommended by the German Institute for Human Rights (DIMR 2017: 2f), the responsibility for the creation of indicators for the measurability of inclusion, and the responsibility for supporting partner countries in human rights-based target group analyses.

"Only culturally sensitive inclusion measures can lead to sustainable project success."

Recommendations

The following recommendations reflect the researcher's view. Based on the findings of the interviews with both German employees and self-advocates, the researcher recommends the promotion of intercultural competence in all employees of German development cooperation. On the one hand, general intercultural competence should be taught. This includes recognising one's own culturally influenced actions as well as deconstructing prejudices and biases against other cultures. This also involves raising awareness of neo-colonialist tendencies and White Saviourism. Most self-advocates stressed the importance of this measure. Other than that, it is essential to uncover and counteract the German NGOs' distrust towards partner organisations regarding money management. In addition, the researcher recommends examining internal organisational communication about this mistrust to avoid reproducing stereotypes. In addition to acquiring general intercultural competence, employees need to gain culture-specific knowledge about project sites. Both groups of interviewees agree to this. To avoid a Eurocentric view of the culture, the researcher recommends attending culture-specific trainings led by members of the respective culture or a similarly influenced culture. It is imperative that these trainings address the realities of life for people with disabilities as well as culture-specific attitudinal barriers.

The fact that disability inclusion seems to evoke a feeling of excessive demand in many German NGO employees because of lack of time and resources calls for further analysis. One in seven of the world's population has a registered disability (BMZ 2019: 5). In the researcher's opinion, this makes people with disabilities more than just a group to be considered. They are an integral part of society that must be represented in important positions. Furthermore, since many people with disabilities have limited mobility, they are more vulnerable than, for example, queer people in terms of infrastructure or evacuation measures. The researcher and all interviewees agree that people with disabilities should not only act as a target group but also always as project partners or at least advisors. For this, an automatism must be developed. In order to increase the presence of self-advocates and DPOs, the researcher recommends the destigmatisation of disability by, for example, the consistent implementation of the twin track-approach. In Germany as well as abroad, it must be advertised that people with disabilities have a voice and that one does not have to or should speak for them. Since DPOs mostly do advocacy work, promoting them can help destigmatise disability. This, in turn, would increase the likelihood of more people with disabilities being registered and thus reached by development cooperation. If more people are empowered through development cooperation, the chances that they will become self-advocates themselves will grow. This could lead to the founding of more DPOs. This, in turn, would counteract the frequently mentioned problem of the self-advocates' representativeness. With a larger number of self-advocates, responsibilities could be distributed and the power of the emergent elite along self-advocates could be decentralised. This positive cycle would counteract intercultural difficulties in development cooperation because the delegation of responsibilities to local organisations reduces the potential for intercultural conflict.

To avoid intercultural miscommunication, the researcher recommends descriptive and neutral communication about disability, barriers, and inclusion. Employees of German development cooperation must know which words can lead to misunderstandings in intercultural collaboration. To further avoid a negative project outcome due to misunderstandings, words with conflict potential can be addressed in advance and their exact connotations can be clarified when agreeing on project goals. The Washington Questions could be used as a supportive tool. The question set should also be used when surveying disability in a community. According to Cobley, more people with disabilities have been registered though the Washington Questions than with household surveys (Cobley 2018: 23). This can be seen as a success for neutral, descriptive communication in international cooperation.

Based on the observation that interventions were both imposed on certain cultures and also transferred from one culture to another, the researcher recommends that German NGOs don't rely solely on the legal situation but apply culturally sensitive inclusion strategies. In doing so, it is essential that they work with the culture and give them the lead on developing and implementing those strategies. Only culturally sensitive inclusion measures can lead to sustainable project success.

The researcher also suggests a type of knowledge management regarding culture specifics and cultural contexts of disability. This idea was appreciated by all interviewees, although it entails the risk of misinformation. A platform with disability-specific information and general cultural specifics could serve as a knowledge pool for everyone involved in a project. It could be equipped with information on the life circumstances of people with disabilities by self-advocates. In addition, employees of German development cooperation could share their experiences with this tool and enter into dialogue with other employees as well as self-advocates and members of the respective cultures. This exchange could serve as a basis for joint problem-solving.

To counteract the persisting medical and welfare models of disability, the researcher recommends reviewing both the mission statements and all work steps of the NGOs with regard to the human rights-based approach. If necessary, their work should be realigned with it. Disability-specific organisations must distance themselves from the medical model of disability, turn to the human rights-based approach, and perceive those affected as legal entities. In order to work in a human rights-based way, it is necessary to investigate how each step of a project benefits the recipient culture and how it supports the local organisations. If the measures create an imbalance of power, they must be reconsidered. This also applies to the administrative power over financial resources. The fact that local organisations are afraid of budget cuts as a consequence of criticism is unacceptable in terms of the 2030 Agenda as well as the human rights-based model of disability. A development cooperation organisation that wants to defend its monopoly of power misses the point of development cooperation.

The researcher emphasises the importance of open dialogue about the goals of a project. Through conversations, commonalities can be identified even between organisations that consciously or unconsciously work with different models of disability. For example, a local Christian organisation working along welfare values could also work successfully with a human rights-based European organisation. However, important criteria of the human rights model, such as the promotion of the autonomy of the person, would have to be respected. This was also stated by some of the German interviewees. It would be wrong to condemn charitable organisations abroad for their approach as long as the autonomy of people with disabilities is restricted in residential homes for people with disabilities in countries like Germany, where workers are paid below the minimum wage in sheltered workshops. In addition, employees of development cooperation must be aware that seemingly contradictory beliefs don't necessarily prevent the success of medical or developmental measures. A recipient can believe in Karma as the cause of a disability and still believe in the effectiveness of modern medicine.

Based on the literature research findings and the interviews with the self-advocates, the researcher recommends clarifying the responsibilities regarding the funding instruments for DPOs, the creation of indicators for the measurability of inclusion, and for supporting partner countries in human rights-based target group analyses

Due to the literature research and the interviews with the German employees, the researcher recommends analysing the reasons for the failure of the inclusion strategy of the BMZ. She believes that it would not have failed if it were implementable. It needs to be investigated whether it was insufficiently implemented due to a lack of instructions and indicators, a lack of interest, the adherence to old structures such as the welfare model, or due to ignorance. For this purpose, it is advisable to survey relevant employees regarding their problems and suggestions. Based on the findings, a revised and implementable inclusion strategy could be set up. In any case, people with disabilities would have to participate in its development.

Even though the interviews were anonymised, the research method could not ensure full anonymity. It's possible that the interviewees' statements were influenced by social desirability due to the virtual face-to-face setting. The researcher believes that the influence of social desirability manifested itself during one interview with a self-advocate who didn't criticise anything. The researcher assumes they were afraid of the negative consequences described above. However, it is still possible that their experiences with German development cooperations were exclusively good.

While there was a big consensus on both sides of the sample group and many of the statements were congruent, the representativeness of the research as a whole must be evaluated critically due to the small

number of samples. Also, the representativeness of the German employees should be questioned. They were all, in their own words, motivated above average to include persons with disabilities in their development cooperation. Especially the mainstream organisation's employee stated that not everyone sees the need for specific disability inclusive measures in their projects.

Based on the discussions about the different models of disability, the question arises to what extent disability-specific organisations can detach themselves from the medical model at all. Given their medical focus, it might be challenging to work entirely in line with the human rights-based approach. An organisation that treats a particular condition will always have a medical focus.

It remains to be seen whether specific implementation instructions for the inclusion strategy will be drafted in the near future and to what extent they will take into account the individual cultural context of a country, despite the BMZ 2030 reform process and the Covid-19 pandemic. Given the overall urgency of implementing the inclusion strategy and the lessons learned in this research, specific instructions are strongly recommended.

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Zusammenfassung

Dieser Artikel legt die Forschungsergebnisse dar, die im Rahmen einer Masterarbeit an der OTH Regensburg in Zusammenarbeit mit *bezev* gewonnen wurden. Die Arbeit hatte zum Ziel, den Umgang der Mitarbeitenden der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit mit interkulturellen Herausforderungen bezüglich Behinderung zu erforschen. Dazu wurden sowohl Mitarbeitende der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit als auch Selbstvertreter*innen zu bestehenden Inklusionsansätzen und dem Behinderungsbegriff im interkulturellen Kontext befragt.

Résumé

Cet article présente les résultats de recherche obtenus dans le cadre d'un travail de master réalisé à l'OTH de Ratisbonne en collaboration avec *bezev.* Le travail avait pour objectif d'étudier la manière dont les collaborateurs de la coopération allemand au développement abordent les défis interculturels liés au handicap. Pour ce faire, les collaborateurs de la coopération allemande au développement ainsi que les auto-représentants ont été interrogés sur les approches d'inclusion existantes et la notion de handicap dans le contexte interculturel.

Resumen

Este artículo presenta los resultados de investigaciónes obtenidos en el contexto de una tesis de master en la OTH Regensburgo en cooperación con *bezev*. El objetivo de la tesis era explorar cómo manejan los empleados de la cooperación alemana para el desarrollo los retos interculturales relacionados con la discapacidad. Para ello, se entrevistó tanto a empleados de las organizaciones como a autogestores sobre los enfoques existentes en inclusión y el concepto de discapacidad en un contexto intercultural.

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The Inclusive Participation Toolbox – Meaningful Participation of Persons with Disabilities in International Cooperation

The participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations (OPDs) in international cooperation has historically been insignificant. Additionally, there is a lack of understanding how to make their participation meaningful. CBM Christian Blind Mission has developed an online Inclusive Participation Toolbox that gives stakeholders the background knowledge, the practical advice, the ready-to-use material and the partners they need to enable participation during day-to-day work.

CBM is an international development organisation working for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the poorest countries in the world. Together with our local partners, we currently have projects in 46 countries in the global south. From over 110 years of practical perspective, we recognise that the participation of persons with disabilities and their opportunity to be actively involved in decision-making processes is a key requirement for ownership, effectiveness, and sustainability. However, their participation in development activities has historically been insignificant and there is a lack of understanding on how to make their participation meaningful. Their global exclusion from the Millennium Development Goals outcomes is testimony that persons with disabilities have been left behind in the development process (United Nations, 2011).

A paradigm shift in the way disability is viewed came with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD has brought a human rights-based lens that should be used when addressing disability and inclusion. The CRPD obligates the government and the development cooperation agencies to ensure that all development and humanitarian action is disability-inclusive. It echoes the principle of Nothing About Us Without Us of persons with disabilities and emphasis that all human concerns are the concerns of persons with disabilities as well.

The CRPD has a great influence on the drafting of Agenda 2030 with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that succeeded the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), where persons with disabilities remained excluded. The SDGs not only have specific mention of persons with disabilities in several indicators but also adhere to the mantra of Leave No One Behind, which makes the inclusion of persons with disabilities a cross-cutting requirement.

Persons with disabilities must be consulted like all other stakeholders in the designing, planning, implementing, and monitoring of development projects. Article 32 of the Convention on international cooperation, specifically highlights the importance of working in partnership with persons with disabilities and their organisations (OPDs) in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

OPD participation brings multiple benefits for the relevance, quality, impact and sustainability of development and humanitarian work. It promotes ownership

of interventions, accountability, and better outcomes, and supports agency and empowerment for OPDs to be long-term and efficient partners and counterparts.

OPD engagement can create a common understanding and endorsement of views amongst their membership at regional, national, and local level which promotes a sense of ownership, acceptability, and legitimacy among their members. OPDs collect and channel diverse views of their members, thereby enhancing the chances that policies and programs are informed by and relevant to the priorities of this diversity.

Gaps in Participation of Persons with Disabilities and Their Organisations

Internal research with interviews of OPDs and GIZ project staff conducted by CBM and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) in 2020, confirmed a systematic involvement and participation of persons with disabilities and their organisations in mainstream programmes of development cooperation agencies have not yet become a reality. According to their responses, the reasons for this are manifold. Some OPDs felt they were not on the radar of the development cooperation agency staff when developing programmes. There may be also a lack of awareness about the relevance of a programme for persons with disabilities or which additional considerations are necessary to ensure accessible participation formats. The lack of knowledge and awareness is unfavourably combined with time constraints. On the other hand, OPDs sometimes lack capacities and/or resources to get meaningfully engaged in existing participation processes. This research highlighted on the need for specific information in simple language on how to enable participation of persons with disabilities in development projects.

Moreover, the disability movement, like other social movements, is not homogenous. There are some groups that have traditionally been less included in participatory processes, or harder to reach, or that face higher barriers to participation, such as persons who are deafblind, persons with intellectual disabilities or persons with psychosocial disabilities. It can also include those who may be less engaged in decision making such as women, children, older people, and indigenous persons, as well as people from diverse faith, ethnicity, caste, class, sexual orientation or gender identity minorities (International Disability Alliance, 2022). This understanding may differ in different countries, cultures, and contexts.

A Call for Meaningful Participation

OPDs report that though much is being done in the name of disability-inclusive development but persons with disabilities and their organisations are not consulted. There is a disconnect between the intention to bring about participation and inclusion as an outcome and the processes to reach this outcome, which are not participatory and inclusive. Where participation is invited, it is often tokenistic (symbolic) without being meaningful.

Common understanding is that meaningful participation ensures that the engagement of OPDs is a two-way exchange. It requires the government and all other agencies engaged in development, disaster, or humanitarian work to have a genuine interest in listening, discussing, and acting upon their concerns and not looking at the consultation as a one-off event. Key aspects that should be addressed to make participation of OPDs meaningful suggested as the 10 Forget me nots for meaningful participation in the toolbox are:

From A to Z: Ensure that persons with disabilities and their representing organisations (OPDs) from various backgrounds participate from the start and throughout the project cycle. Foster their participation in all areas, not only in those with a disability-specific topic.

1. *AAAQ:* Ensure that participation, including venues and transportation, is *accessible, available*, (culturally) *acceptable*, and *affordable* for participants. Provide information and material in a timely manner and in accessible formats of appropriate *quality*. Be aware that what may be timely for one group of participants can be too late for others. Provide different options for input to cover diverse needs (e.g. be open for both oral and written feedback). Make sure that staff, facilitators and presenters are properly prepared to ensure an inclusive process.
2. *Capacity Development:* Strengthen OPDs with capacity development where they need it most to facilitate their effective participation. This includes strengthening OPDs' organisational and administrative capacity, communication skills and supporting their understanding of the process for which you need their input and expertise.
3. *Diversity:* Be sure to keep the composition of your participants as diverse and representative as possible. Invite persons with disabilities of different gender, age, socio-economic background, migration history and ensure that those most marginalised are not left behind.
4. *Feedback:* Ensure to provide opportunities for

feedback on various occasions and through different mechanisms throughout the process. Make sure that participants feel comfortable providing critical feedback without any fear of repercussions. Critically reflect your role as an organisation, partner and/or donor and the associated power relations.

5. *Monitoring:* Systematically use feedback to periodically review the participation and consultation mechanisms to ensure continuous feedback.
6. *Policy:* Contribute to making it a statutory requirement to engage with OPDs in your area of work.
7. *Resources:* Plan for enough time, financial and human resources to conduct a meaningful and inclusive participation process. Be aware of possible individual requirements (including reasonable accommodations) and what they mean for your planning (including human resource and budgetary). Make sure that experts with disabilities are granted remuneration for their contribution on an equal basis with others.
8. *Respect:* Provide an environment that is safe and respectful of different backgrounds, abilities and perspectives. Respect the time and contributions of each participant.
9. *Transparency and Accountability:* Let all participants know why you are asking, what you will do and have done with their input and the timeframe. Manage their expectations regarding the limits of their influence in the process.

The Inclusive Participation Toolbox

The digital toolbox developed by CBM addresses this urgent need to increase knowledge and raise awareness about OPD participation. It provides concrete information on enabling meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in development or humanitarian projects. The toolbox translates the normative framework and theoretical concepts into practice and provides easy to use guidance for programme developers and implementers to adopt participatory approaches and to be inclusive of persons with disabilities in their respective areas of work.

The Structure of the Inclusive Participation Toolbox

The toolbox has been developed using a participatory process. An advisory board with 18 members from NGOs, development cooperation staff and OPDs representing different regions and disabilities groups was constituted. The advisory board remained very active throughout the development of the toolbox by attending the meetings, advising the team on essential questions regarding the development of the toolbox (both for content and digital implementation). They also generously shared their knowledge, experience, and good practices with the project team and made sure that the team remained on track and true to the aim of the toolbox.

The Inclusive Participation Toolbox is built on three strong pillars (why, how and who is your partner), which are each accompanied by a rich section of supporting material to be used in practice. The boxes will serve to increase understanding of disability inclusion, the importance of engaging with persons with disabilities and OPDs, basic requirements for disability inclusion in development and finally actually translating these in a project cycle.

It provides guidance on:

1. WHY participation of persons with disabilities and OPDs is important. This includes a closer look at disability and participation as well as references to international frameworks.
2. HOW this can be achieved. This includes key enablers for participation like accessibility requirements or how to ensure participation at each step of the project cycle. It also focusses on language and interaction and introduces the community based inclusive development approach.
3. WHO is your partner. This includes a worldwide database with contact details of OPDs which can be filtered by geographic location or area of expertise. It also includes information on the structures and mandates of OPDs.

Every section is accompanied by a collection of supporting material, e.g. checklists for organising inclusive meetings or giving an inclusive presentation, presentations, case studies, a glossary or additional resources like basic recommendations for making documents accessible or how to find Sign Language interpretation.

Finally, participation, and having a say in matters affecting one's life are simple things that we all take for granted in our daily life. But it is not so obvious for persons with disabilities. They are often denied autonomy as a result of this. Nothing about us with us is not just a call from people with disabilities, rather it is a mantra to ensure that all activities are inclusive and leave no one behind. This toolbox shows how simple it is to include persons with disabilities and their organisations in the development and humanitarian activities and become equal partners.

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The Inclusive Participation Toolbox can be reached via participation.cbm.org.
Further questions at participation@cbm.org

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An AGENDA for Regional Disability Rights: From Network Building to Policy Implementation in Southeast Asia

Since its founding in 2011, the General Election Network for Disability Access (AGENDA) has worked to improve access to political and electoral opportunities for persons with disabilities. AGENDA comprises a creative partnership of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and election-focused civil society organisations across the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). This paper traces over a decade of regional advocacy to highlight success stories from AGENDA OPD partners. This paper also draws on perspectives from ASEAN officials to demonstrate the widespread influence of OPD partners both in their own countries and across Southeast Asia.

Introduction

In 2011, the General Election Network for Disability Access (AGENDA) was established as a forum to improve access to political and electoral opportunities for people with disabilities in Southeast Asia through increased public awareness and advocacy for change (AGENDA 2022). Since its inception, AGENDA has built multi-stakeholder channels to strengthen relationships between persons with disabilities and their organisations, broader civil society, disability rights allies and ASEAN officials and support policy action that promotes the rights of all persons with disabilities. AGENDA has fostered strong relationships with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) sectoral ministerial bodies; its overarching human rights body, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR); and the regional organisation's Secretariat (ASEC) to promote the development of a regional human rights instrument to support the mainstreaming of disability rights across the region.

AGENDA provides mentorship and capacity-strengthening support to eight member organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in Southeast Asia, including trainings to develop advocacy skills, technical skills-based trainings and ongoing mentorship. OPD partners also connect and collaborate with each other on regional policy initiatives and through AGENDA's Regional Dialogues, which bring together stakeholders across civil society, national governments, and ASEAN. The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) supports AGENDA through technical assistance in areas such as disability-inclusive political participation and advocacy strategy. Through the AGENDA network, local advocates connect with regional officials and policy frameworks, enhancing advocacy efforts to ensure national level policies align with regional commitments on disability rights. This enhanced grassroots advocacy strategy changes the incentives for stakeholder engagement, creates national alignment with regional policy and generates additional political will at the national level. Locally-led efforts ensure

disability rights are contextualised to the priorities of persons with disabilities in each ASEAN country.

OPD Advocacy

AGENDA leverages its partnerships with a variety of stakeholders to mainstream disability rights on a regional level, enabling partners to reach new potential champions and allies. Many AGENDA OPDs have national chapters in their countries, allowing them to reach persons with disabilities outside of city centers, ensuring broad participation. OPD engagement with ASEAN has led to unprecedented collaboration between persons with disabilities and national and regional governments with the common goal of ensuring the full exercise of persons with disabilities' political, social, and economic rights. Although AGENDA's early advocacy focused primarily on disability-inclusive elections, the network grew to meet the demands of local partners. As a result of trusted relationships developed with government officials, AGENDA has been invited to participate in workshops and meetings with high-level political representatives within ASEAN institutions such as AICHR and ASEC, bringing local perspectives to the forefront of regional development, including the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan 2025: Mainstreaming the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (ASEAN 2018).

Building a Regional Network

From the beginning, AGENDA partners have shared their experiences with each other to build capacity of OPDs across Southeast Asia. In Indonesia, AGENDA partner Indonesia Disabled People's Association (PPDI) partnered with a national election observation group to create and pilot a checklist for monitoring accessibility of Indonesia's 2011 regional elections, training 410 election observers. Including persons with disabilities as election observers ensured their perspectives were brought to the attention of election administrators and officials and increased their visibility as leaders in their communities. Likewise, the mainstream election observation group gained a more in-depth understanding of issues facing persons with disabilities and accessibility, carrying this new awareness back to their own networks. For PPDI, the partnership served as a model of what could be accomplished through collaboration with other specialised CSOs in an unfamiliar sector to gather evidence and to engage government actors. It was a model that would guide AGENDA's work as it expanded beyond elections into other sectors.

PPDI shared experiences as election observers with AGENDA's Cambodian partner in 2012, supporting an election access observation of commune council elections. The checklist produced for observing Indonesia's election was updated for use in Cambodia, and later provided the foundation for an international Election Access Observation Toolkit (Atkinson/Aaberg 2018). Based on the findings of this targeted election observation, an election management body (EMB) assessment checklist was adopted by the Indonesian Election Commission (KPU) in 2016, and KPU has reminded its branches to utilise this tool to ensure access of Indonesians with disabilities to the electoral process (ElectionAccess.org 2017). These experiences strengthened relationships between AGENDA partners and national government institutions, creating new opportunities to elevate the voices of persons with disabilities.

Trusted Interlocutors

AGENDA partners have a long-established relationship with ASEAN bodies. In 2012, OPDs successfully advocated with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) to include disability rights in the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights. To ensure that the voices of persons with disabilities continue to be part of regional policymaking, AGENDA has organised OPD dialogue sessions with AICHR since 2015. These periodic meetings provide OPDs the opportunity to coordinate their advocacy and served as a critical source of information for ASEAN during the development of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan. AGENDA OPDs supported the Task Force that drafted the plan by sharing their lived experience and perspectives. As a result, the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan contains key action points that seek to address the barriers identified by OPDs and to ensure ASEAN's development process is inclusive of persons with disabilities.

> "We needed AGENDA to raise awareness at the national level so that the networks of organisations for and of persons with disabilities of each Member State realise what's going on - and what's going to happen - and how they can help to bring it about. And that's really instrumental." - Dr. Seree Nonthasoot, former Thailand Representative to AICHR

With the support of disability rights champions such as Dr. Seree Nonthasoot, representative of Thailand to AICHR from 2013-2018, and Ms. Yuyun Wahyuningrum, current representative of Indonesia to AICHR, AGENDA OPDs have had unprecedented access to ASEAN decision-makers. Dr. Seree worked closely with

AGENDA and OPD partners to contribute to the structure and initial content of the Enabling Masterplan through a discussion series which gave persons with disabilities the opportunity to share their perspectives, needs and priorities. With Dr. Seree's support, OPDs had a direct line of communication with AICHR during the decision-making process, genuine consultation that continued through OPD active participation in the cross-pillar task force assembled to draft the Enabling Masterplan. AGENDA has also provided support to ASEC, including co-leading trainings for ASEAN Sectoral Bodies to increase awareness of disability rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities among regional government officials. These efforts promote implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan.

Implementing Regional Priorities

According to Ms. Wahyuningrum, AICHR Indonesia's relationship with AGENDA has been key to coordinating with the disability rights community and ensuring their issues and concerns are prioritised. During the COVID-19 pandemic, AGENDA and AICHR found new ways to collaborate when Ms. Wahyuningrum noticed a lack of information about the experiences of Southeast Asians with disabilities during the pandemic and turned to AGENDA to collaborate on a bi-weekly webinar series. The series, carried out from April 2021 to May 2021, focused on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, the right to education and employment during the pandemic and independent living. The webinars, which reached almost 1,300 participants and viewers (AICHR 2021), resulted in recommendations for response and recovery from persons with disabilities themselves.

AGENDA partners honed advocacy skills at the national level that have translated to regional change. Partners in eight countries developed policy platforms to identify opportunities to implement the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan. Partners have used these skills to make implementation of the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan a reality in their countries. In Malaysia, the National Council for the Blind Malaysia (NCBM) used advocacy techniques from IFES' policy platform training to draft direct requests of government officials to align response to the COVID-19 pandemic with ASEAN Enabling Masterplan principles. As a result of NCBM's advocacy, government communications on COVID-19 were updated to include interpretation in Malaysian Sign Language, five million ringgits were made available for food deliveries to older persons with disabilities and other at-risk groups, and an inclusive unemployment policy was developed to support lower-income Malaysians.

In the Philippines, the Center for Advocacy, Learning and Livelihood Foundation of the Blind (CALL Foundation) held townhall discussions with candidates for elected office in May 2022. This virtual forum, the first opportunity for many persons with disabilities to discuss issues important to them with candidates and political parties, highlighted the ASEAN Enabling Masterplan and resulted in the adoption of a disability-inclusive political platform by the candidates. After the elections, CALL Foundation reconnected with candidates in a second townhall event to follow up on campaign promises related to disability rights.

Working with other AGENDA partners has helped OPDs in the region reach new goals. In Vietnam, for example, AGENDA's OPD partner now works closely with government ministries to support disability rights efforts. Although initially developed as a service organisation, the organisation began connecting with government stakeholders and conducting more active advocacy after joining AGENDA in 2012.

> "Personally, I did not like working on policies, laws and legislation, I just wanted to work on services for persons with disabilities, mostly I used to work on physical accessibility on transportation for persons with disabilities. AGENDA has changed my career. At first [advocacy], was a [requirement], I was not willing to do it, and working again and again on advocacy, I saw it was interesting. I learned that if you want to change the lives of people with disabilities, you should change the policy, political participation of persons with disabilities, so my career has changed from a community worker to helping people advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities." - OPD advocate from Vietnam

Conclusion

AGENDA demonstrates that participating in OPD networks can benefit not just organisations themselves but also all persons with disabilities living in a region. Collaborating for regional advocacy in Southeast Asia has had far-reaching impacts – from recognition in a regional human rights declaration to the establishment of the region's first disability rights policy – and has created pathways for continued engagement. AGENDA started by pairing local OPDs with election monitoring organisations to achieve breakthroughs in accessible election policy. Today, AGENDA's OPD network collaborates with a variety of specialised partners across a multitude of sectors to help shape progressive regional development policy. The AGENDA model of connecting

the local to the regional demonstrates the importance of multi-stakeholder networks to build capacity of disability rights advocates and enhance their political engagement. The AGENDA example can provide a useful model not only for OPDs but for other networks of civil society organisations, combining technical support with engaging new government stakeholders.

NOTES

1 Rebecca Aaberg's full bio is available here: https://www.ifes.org/people/rebecca-aaberg

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Together for Inclusion – With DPOs in the Lead

Introduction

Persons with disabilities and their organisations – Disabled Persons' Organisations, DPOs[1] – face massive and systematic discrimination in international development cooperation. Despite the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the UN Sustainable Development Goals with the principle of leaving no one behind, and despite the more recent Global Disability Summit, the amounts of Official Development Assistance, ODA, used for mainstreaming disability rights and for targeted efforts remain extremely low, below 3% and 1%, respectively (Fafo 2022). In addition, in the existing initiatives, DPOs and persons with disabilities themselves very rarely own the agenda and the projects, since resources almost always go to the larger international organisations. In the experience of the Atlas Alliance, DPOs are often asked to provide a stamp of approval by other organisations but are not usually given a seat at the table where decisions are made. The following experience is an example showing that solutions can be found – and be very effective.

When Norad, the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, announced a call for proposals for inclusion of persons with disabilities in the spring of 2019, a group of Norwegian organisations, headed by the Atlas Alliance, came together and decided to apply as one consortium in which DPOs and NGOs would learn from each other, and where the DPOs would be in the driver's seat. The consortium was named Together for Inclusion – TOFI for short. Later that year, the application was approved, and in December 2019, the Atlas Alliance signed the agreement with Norad. In 2020, a second round of funding was announced, and Together for Inclusion was able to secure funding for an additional country and additional partners, bringing the total number of Norwegian organisations to 15; six DPOs and nine NGOs. Altogether the consortium was awarded a total of almost EUR 50 million for the period of 2019-2022, which is more than double the budget the Atlas Alliance had already been granted for the same period. The organisations that form the partnership include The Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD), the Norwegian Association of the Blind and Partially Sighted (NABP), the Norwegian Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (NFU), the Norwegian Federation of Organisations of Disabled Persons (FFO), The Norwegian Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (RHF), Youth Mental Health Norway, Save the Children Norway, Plan International Norway, The Stromme Foundation, ADRA Norway, Norwegian Church Aid, YGlobal, Naturvernforbundet, SOS Children's Villages and the Development Fund.

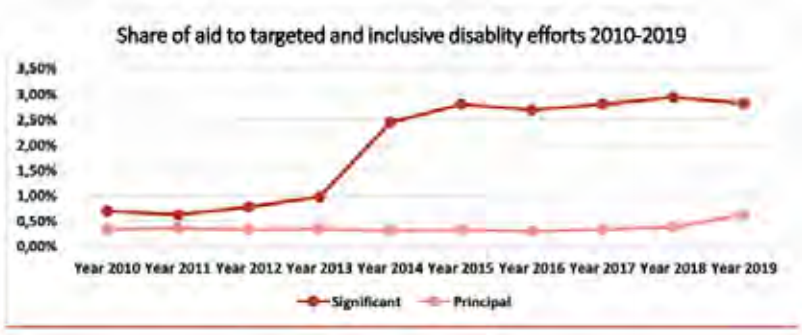
Fulfilling the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

In Sub-Saharan Africa, persons with disabilities face basic human rights violations such as stigma, social exclusion, and lack of access to quality education and employment (UN 2018). To remove these barriers to full participation, and for the world to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the rights of persons with disabilities, as explained in the CRPD, must be fulfilled.

In this innovative strategic partnership, Together for Inclusion, Norwegian DPOs joined forces with some of Norway's largest and most reputable Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to deliver a ground-breaking programme. Combining the reach and development expertise of the large NGOs with a rights-based approach and the specific knowledge of the DPOs, the programme puts persons with disabilities in the driver's seat, thus realising the motto of the disability rights movement – Nothing about us without us – and aims to reach the most marginalised with high-quality organisational capacity development, disability rights advocacy, inclusive education, and economic empowerment projects in six target countries: Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda.

Through this partnership model, the consortium aims to deliver quality programming and a sustained paradigm shift in the inclusion of persons with disabilities, working towards achieving several Sustainable Development Goals, mainly goals number 1 (No Poverty), 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). The DPOs and NGOs that are part of the consortium carry out a variety of activities in human rights advocacy and organisational development, inclusive education, and economic empowerment. Mental health is also an issue that is mainstreamed in many parts of the programme.

The Background: Tracking Inclusion as a Base for Advocacy



The graphic shows the share of aid to targeted and inclusive disability efforts from 2010 to 2019.

How did we create a new momentum and support for Norwegian involvement in disability in development? What became the major advocacy tool? The answer is what we call Tracking Inclusion - a facts-based approach to advocacy. The systematic tracking exercise was first done by Norad in their report Mainstreaming Disability in the New Development Paradigm, published in 2012 (Norad 2012). The same exercise was done by Norad in 2020 and published in 2021 (Norad 2021).

The main responsible consultant for both reports were Annika Nilsson of NIDS Development Services, and she has also been engaged by the Atlas Alliance to do smaller but similar tracking exercises for the Atlas Alliance in 2013 and 2016. The main analytical approach has been to use the financial reports that Norad receives and then conduct word searches, in combination with analysing the use of the OECD-DAC policy marker from 2018. Since the work is commissioned and published by Norad, the main reports have been taken very seriously, with few objections once they are published. More details on the methodology are found in the reports.

ODA worldwide was in 2020 around USD 1800 billion. The US was by far the largest donor, followed by Germany. What is not very well known is that the share of ODA that is allocated for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and for strengthening disability rights for the last 10-20 years amounts to only 2-3 % of the total ODA, despite the fact that persons with disabilities are among the poorest and most marginalised groups, in particular in the Global South. And despite the expectations following the adoption of the CRPD in 2006 and the SDGs in 2015. So far it is also difficult to measure whether the Global Disability Summit from 2018 has changed this negative picture.

Since Norwegian – and international – ODA has as main target to end poverty and promote human rights, the knowledge, and exact data on disability inclusion in ODA is of vital interest. The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, Norad, has done some very important and interesting work in this area. In 2012 Norad launched their first report on tracking inclusion: Mainstreaming Disability in the New Development Paradigm (Norad, 2012). The report documented that the significant support to disability inclusion was below 1% of Norwegian ODA. The targeted effort was less than 0,5%, down from 1% in the year 2000. At the same time the report was clear on the fact that the specific

results were more obvious and measurable in the targeted support.

From 2012 onwards, the Atlas Alliance has systematically used this data, and has also been able to document additional data with the same aim: to track inclusion. Norad and other donors, as well as multilaterals and other organisations, claim to be right- based and to support Leave No One Behind, but the traceable funding for inclusion remains very low, and the results are scarce. In 2016, the Norwegian targeted support went below 0.4%, documented in our own report. And despite increased funding from Norway to UNICEF from 2015 and onwards, earmarked for inclusive education, it was very difficult to find that more children with disabilities went to school, as we documented in our report, developed by Fafo in 2017 (Fafo 2017).

The Turning Point

The turning point in the Atlas Alliance's advocacy work came when we managed to get in dialogue with key politicians both in the Parliament and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). We supported the direct dialogue with op-eds in our national paper/website for international development.[2] Faced with facts, politicians stated that these facts "were very hard to believe" and faced with the obligations of the SDGs, we started hearing "This has to change", "We need to do something". The Global Disability Summit in 2018 was important both as inspiration, as a learning event and as a catalyst for stronger and more targeted engagement from the Norwegian politicians and administration responsible for development assistance. The Charter for Change from London also served as a strong support for increased focus on disability rights and *disability-in-development*-funding (The Global Disability Summit 2018).

The close dialogue and pressure on the politicians, in combination with a new minister for development, gave results. As mentioned above, in 2019, Norad announced the new funding mechanism to promote inclusive development initiatives. Both NGOs and DPOs were encouraged to apply, the aim was to promote disability rights and strengthen DPOs – and a very clear objective in the call for proposal was to encourage new cooperation between organisations, with DPOs in central roles.

The main takeaway for us as DPOs in Norway and partner countries is this: Inclusion must be tracked, donors as well as recipients have to be held accountable. Our *best practice* and advice: Try to document how much funding is actually allocated to inclusion and to what extent inclusion actually can be documented, use a facts-based approach to advocacy, share the knowledge, and be willing to cooperate both in advocacy and in forming new ways of project implementation. Last but not least: Let persons with disabilities and our own organisations own the agenda and the projects – let DPOs be the leaders.

The consortium and our model

Early on in the planning process, the organisations agreed that the Atlas Alliance should take the lead in the partnership. Founded in 1981 as an umbrella organisation for the Norwegian DPOs engaged in international solidarity work, the Atlas Alliance has a long trajectory of managing a collective of small and larger organisations with varying level of expertise and international experience, making it an ideal lead for this multi-partner programme. The Atlas Alliance acts as Norad's contract partner for the consortium, being the principal liaison for Norad communications and donor reporting on finances and progress, including consolidating the thematic results framework. The Atlas Alliance has created sub-grant agreements with all participating organisations and is the overall responsible party for achieving the agreed-upon deliverables.

Before signing the Norad agreement, the Atlas secretariat and an executive committee consisting of DPOs and NGOs spent several months outlining the model and creating an memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the partnership. In each of the six participating countries, one organisation acts as Country Lead. In three of the countries, this is a DPO; in the other three, an NGO. Each country has a coordinating committee that meets regularly and that together with the thematic working groups is in charge of planning activities, setting targets, and the general running of the programme. There is also a local country coordinator in each country. While the structures vary a bit from place to place, they all work to ensure collaboration across organisations, to ensure the added value that a true partnership can bring.

Lessons Learned

It is important to note that establishing a successful collaboration takes time and effort and is not necessarily a painless process. It takes time to develop new structures and roles. There can be conflicts, and some NGOs may not be used to taking direction from a DPO. Each country has a different experience but in all of them, the organisations now work well together, guided by the Country Lead and by the agreements and structures the organisations established together. Time is also of the utmost importance for the organisations to

grow together – time to design together, plan together, implement together, report together. Working in silos does not create the kind of positive externalities we see in Together for Inclusion.

Within the consortium, we are coining the term Finance and Formalise: It has become evident that for collaboration to work, all parties must have financing, and the relationship must be formalised. In this consortium structure, the resources are allocated to each organisation, while in most DPO-NGO collaborative efforts, funds flow from the NGO to the DPO, creating a power imbalance. When both receive funding, they are on an equal footing. It is also often a great learning experience for NGO staff to see successful persons with disabilities coordinating and leading projects – unfortunately, in most of the world, people are not used to seeing professionals with disabilities.

When DPOs and NGOs work together, they can reach further. To give a concrete example, before Together for Inclusion, Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD), and the Atlas Alliance both had MoUs with Save the Children Norway and were exploring ways of collaborating. However, establishing this collaboration through the consortium, with resources allocated to all organisations, enabled them to actually start working side by side. NAD had been working in several African countries for years and had developed a holistic and integral model for inclusive education called the Inclusive Learning Approach, ILA. Save the Children are active in many African countries and reach a great number of children. When they joined forces in Together for Inclusion, they were able to create lasting change for many more children, families, teachers and communities. When Save the Children implements the ILA, they know they are using a model developed by and approved by DPOs. Moreover, working directly with the DPOs, they are accountable to the stakeholders and can change course or make corrections as necessary. At the same time, Save the Children share their knowledge through trainings in child safeguarding and the participation of children, improving the capacity of the DPOs in these areas.

Within the project, DPOs like NAD also strengthen their knowledge base to be able to take an active advisory role. Very often, in developing educational programmes, children and adults with disabilities are not consulted, even though they are the ones who know what it is like to be a disabled child in a school setting. The parents and the teachers are of course important parties as well, but by empowering the DPOs to take an active role, the lived experience of persons with disabilities is taken into account and informs the programming.

The Way Forward

Currently, Together for Inclusion is the only partnership of its kind, with DPOs in the lead. However, it should not be the last. Governments, donors, and aid organisations themselves are realising the added value and the greater impact that these kinds of collaborations lead to. They are also understanding that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, DPOs, must be in charge of their own fight for human rights.

NOTES

1 Note on terminology: In the Atlas Alliance, the terms Disabled Persons' Organisation (DPO) and Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPD) are both used, but with a preference for DPO. The term DPO is grounded in the social model of disability, where the individual becomes disabled by the barriers in society, whether they be environmental, attitudinal, or systemic. The social model is often seen as the precursor to the human rights model of disability, which guides the work of the Atlas Alliance

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Alle Rechte für alle Menschen mit Behinderungen – Pilotprojekt zur Förderung der Partizipation von Selbstvertretungsorganisationen (OPDs) in der schweizerischen internationalen Zusammenarbeit und humanitären Hilfe

Kontext

Dem Projekt *Alle Rechte für alle Menschen mit Behinderungen*[1] liegt die Erkenntnis zugrunde, dass internationale Zusammenarbeit und humanitäre Hilfe nicht nur den Globalen Süden, sondern auch den Globalen Norden betreffen. Dies insbesondere im Sinne der Solidarität zwischen den OPDs: Denn auch im Globalen Süden sollen für Menschen mit Behinderungen weder Barrieren erhalten noch neue geschaffen werden, sondern die Inklusion für alle gewährleistet werden. OPDs in der Schweiz sollen die Möglichkeit nutzen können, darauf einzuwirken und sich in diesem Themenbereich einzubringen. Die Schweiz als Akteurin der internationalen Zusammenarbeit und humanitären Hilfe ist zudem gemäss der UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention (UN-BRK) Art. 4 (3) verpflichtet, auch in diesem Bereich OPDs zu konsultieren und Partizipation zu gewährleisten. 2022 hat die Schweiz im Rahmen des Staatenberichtsverfahrens zur UN-BRK die Empfehlung erhalten:

> "Massnahmen zu ergreifen, um sicherzustellen, dass Menschen mit Behinderungen […] über die sie vertretenden Organisationen eng konsultiert und aktiv in die Gestaltung, Entwicklung, Überwachung und Bewertung von Strategien und Programmen zur internationalen Zusammenarbeit einbezogen werden." (Abschliessende Bemerkungen, Art. 32. Empfehlung b, 2022)

Doch bei der Partizipation in Bezug auf die internationale Zusammenarbeit besteht zurzeit noch eine entscheidende Lücke in der Schweiz: Einerseits musste die Direktion für Entwicklung und Zusammenarbeit (DEZA) der Schweiz zuerst ein Bewusstsein für diese Verpflichtung entwickeln. Andererseits kann sie aktuell auf keine OPDs mit Fachexpertise in der internationalen Zusammenarbeit als Partner zurückgreifen, um solche Konsultationen durchzuführen. Deshalb setzen sich AGILE.CH und CBM Schweiz im Rahmen eines Mandats der DEZA für eine Stärkung der Kapazitäten ein, mit der Zielsetzung, dass OPDs zukünftig in allen Themen und Bereichen, die die internationale Zusammenarbeit betreffen, miteinbezogen werden können. Die DEZA aber auch andere humanitäre Akteure der Schweiz sollen dadurch in Einklang mit der UN-BRK agieren und den darin enthaltenen Partizipationsartikel berücksichtigen. Ein Ziel des Projekts ist es deshalb, Menschen mit Behinderungen und Organisationen von Menschen mit Behinderungen für die internationale Zusammenarbeit und humanitäre Hilfe zu begeistern und Wissen aufzubauen, damit sie als Expert*innen partizipieren können. Dies stellt für die Schweiz ein Novum dar: Zum ersten Mal wird gemeinsam mit einer OPD im Bereich der internationalen Zusammenarbeit ein partizipatives Projekt zur Stärkung der Kapazitäten durchgeführt.

Die erste Aufgabe bestand darin, eine Übersicht bestehender Organisationen von Menschen mit Behinderungen zu erstellen, da nur unzureichende Daten dazu existieren. Zudem galt es zu prüfen, ob

tatsächlich noch keine OPDs im Bereich der humanitären Hilfe und internationalen Zusammenarbeit tätig sind.

Hierfür wurde eine Umfrage lanciert. An dieser haben sich 50 Organisationen beteiligt. Um zu erfahren, bei welchen Organisationen es sich um OPDs handelt und welche Organisationen sich für die Anliegen von Menschen mit Behinderungen einsetzen, ohne eine Selbstvertretungsorganisation zu sein, lag der Umfrage der *General Comment Nr. 7* (Allgemeiner Kommentar Nr. 7, GC Nr. 7) zu Grunde. Dieser definiert Organisationen von Menschen mit Behinderungen unter anderem wie folgt:

> "They can only be those that are led, directed and governed by persons with disabilities. A clear majority of their membership should be recruited among persons with disabilities themselves." (General Comment Nr. 7, CRPD, 2018)

Nach dem GC Nr. 7 müssen bei OPDs mindestens 50 % der Angestellten sowie der Mitglieder Menschen mit Behinderungen sein. Zudem müssen Menschen mit Behinderungen auch in Leitungspositionen und im Vorstand vertreten sein, sodass sie tatsächlich auch Entscheidungsmacht innerhalb der Organisation besitzen. Nach Kenntnis der beiden projektleitenden Organisationen fand in der Schweiz bislang keine vergleichbare Bestandesaufnahme statt.

Es stellte sich heraus, dass in der Schweiz ein Graubereich besteht: Nicht jede Organisation lässt sich eindeutig zuteilen. Die Organisationsstrukturen weisen eine Vielfalt und Komplexität auf, die es herausfordernd machen, Selbstvertretungsorganisationen und Organisationen für Menschen mit Behinderungen trennscharf zu unterscheiden. Die Organisationen selbst haben sich teilweise anders zugeordnet, als es aufgrund des GC Nr. 7 schlüssig wäre. An einem gemeinsamen Verständnis, was OPDs auf Grundlage des GC Nr. 7 auszeichnet, muss daher gearbeitet werden.

Aus den Umfrageergebnissen zeichnete sich zudem ab, dass sich zurzeit keine Selbstvertretungsorganisation, die an der Umfrage teilgenommen hat, spezifisch im Bereich der internationalen Zusammenarbeit und humanitären Hilfe engagiert. Dies könnte damit zusammenhängen, dass es noch viele nationale Themen gibt, bei denen es grundlegender Verbesserungen bedarf.

Rolle des Globalen Südens

Eine weitere Zielsetzung des Projekts besteht deshalb darin, den Austausch und das gegenseitige Lernen zwischen dem Globalen Süden und der Schweiz zu fördern und dadurch die gegenseitige Solidarität zu stärken. Dazu soll ein Netzwerk aufgebaut werden, das sich aus Selbstvertreter*innen aus der Schweiz zusammensetzt und einen regelmässigen Dialog mit dem Globalen Süden führt.

Durch Begegnungen und Austausch soll Verständnis geschaffen werden und der Diskurs über die Ländergrenzen hinweg stattfinden. Es ist zentral – ganz nach dem Leitprinzip *Nothing About Us, Without Us* - Stimmen und Perspektiven aus dem Globalen Süden einzubeziehen. Lokale Akteur*innen und Aktivist*innen des Globalen Südens sind Expert*innen ihrer eigenen Lebenswelten und verfügen über wertvolles Wissen, das im Bereich der internationalen Zusammenarbeit für die Schweiz unerlässlich ist. Deshalb ist es für das Projekt zentral, dass während des Prozesses der Wissenstransfer zwischen Süden und Norden etabliert und die Grundlage für einen stetigen Dialog geschaffen wird.

Daher war beim ersten der beiden bisherigen Austauschtreffen eine Expertin aus dem Globalen Süden vertreten, die von ihren Erfahrungen als Aktivistin berichtete. Das Interesse daran war gross. Rückmeldungen bestätigen, dass dieser Austausch nicht nur wichtig ist, sondern von allen Seiten geschätzt wird.

Aktueller Stand

Beim ersten Treffen stand das gegenseitige Kennenlernen im Fokus. Darum, ein Verständnis zu entwickeln, weshalb und mit welchen Erwartungshaltungen die anwesenden Personen und Organisationen gekommen sind. Insgesamt haben 23 Personen teilgenommen. Diese hohe Anzahl an Teilnehmer*innen war eine positive Überraschung, die so nicht erwartet wurde. Dies deshalb nicht, weil sich in der Umfrage zeigte, dass keine Selbstvertretungsorganisation, die den Fragebogen ausgefüllt hat, aktuell in der internationalen Zusammenarbeit und/oder humanitären Hilfe tätig ist. Dennoch besteht offenbar ein Interesse daran, dass die Schweiz als wichtige Akteurin in der internationalen Zusammenarbeit, als Vertragsstaat der UN-BRK und als UN-Mitgliedsstaat in der Umsetzung der nachhaltigen Entwicklungsziele der Agenda 2030 Verantwortung trägt. Zudem besteht ein grundsätzliches Interesse an der Thematik. Es zeigte sich jedoch auch, dass vonseiten der Teilnehmenden bisher kaum Wissen im Bereich der internationalen Zusammenarbeit vorhanden ist und eine Stärkung der Kapazitäten daher gefragt ist. Die Diskussion darüber, wie dieser im Detail aussehen soll und welche Form der Partizipation erwünscht ist, wurde beim zweiten Austausch gestartet.

Wie geht es weiter?

Das Projekt selbst verfolgt auch weiterhin einen möglichst partizipativen Ansatz: Die Interessierten sollen bei Format, Inhalt und Zielsetzungen mitdiskutieren und aktiv partizipieren können. Dies bringt zwar eine ungewohnte Ungewissheit mit sich, wohin die Reise genau gehen wird, wird aber dadurch dem Artikel 4.3 der UNO-BRK und dem GC Nr. 7 gerecht. Dazu gehören auch die kontinuierliche Reflexion und eine laufende Anpassung des Projektes. Fest steht: Die Förderung des gegenseitigen Verständnisses und der Solidarität durch den Austausch zwischen dem Globalen Süden und dem Globalen Norden bleibt ein Fokus des Projekts. Ausserdem sollen Menschen mit Behinderungen auch bei den weiteren Schritten stets involviert sein und mitreden können. Denn wenn das Mitbestimmungsrecht im Prozess selbst und bei der Weiterentwicklung des Projekts nicht berücksichtigt wird, wie könnte genau dies ausserhalb des Projekts eingefordert werden?

ANMERKUNGEN

1 *Alle Rechte für alle Menschen mit Behinderungen* ist ein von AGILE.CH und CBM durchgeführtes Projekt der Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft.

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Global Disability Summit 2022 Report Published

The Global Disability Summit (GDS2022) was held in February 2022. The Summit represented a pivotal moment and collected more than 1400 new commitments coming from a diverse array of 190 stakeholders including governments, multilateral agencies, donors, foundations, the private sector, CSOs, and organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). After the Summit, the permanent co-host of the mechanism, the International Disability Alliance (IDA), with the support of the Global Disability Summit Secretariat, embarked on an analysis of the commitments received. Through the Global Disability Summit Report, they want to provide key information from the preparatory phase of the GDS2022 relating to the regional and national consultations, how the GDS agenda was selected, the mechanisms in place that allowed to take stock of the progress made since GDS2018, and what has been done to monitor the implementation of the commitments. One of the report's main goals is to investigate and analyse the commitments received at GDS2022, highlight some good examples of commitments IDA and the GDS Secretariat have received in line with the CRPD and underline the emerging trends and issues that can be improved as we look ahead at GDS2025. If you want to access these results, and learn about the outcomes of the GDS, you access the report under the following link.

Information: https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/resources/global-disability-summit-2022-report

UN CRPD Committee Approves New Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation, Including Times of Emergency

On 9th September 2022, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD Committee) adopted the new Guidelines on Deinstitutionalisation, including times of emergency. The Guidelines provide a roadmap to governments, disability activists, and donors about the immediate steps needed to end the practice of institutionalisation and residential treatment or care for people with disabilities. The document is the result of a two year long participatory process triggered by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on persons with disabilities in institutions, which had been documented in a report by the Covid-19 Disability Rights Monitor. "The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities guarantees the right of all persons with disabilities to live in society. In adopting the guidelines, the UN recognises that institutionalisation is not just a form of discrimination in violation of the CRPD– but a form of violence itself that exposes children and adults to dangerous treatment and abuse," said Dragana Ciric Milovanovic, European Program Director for DRI.

Information: https://www.driadvocacy.org/un-crpd-committee-approves-new-guidelines-on-deinstitutionalization-including-times-of-emergency/

EU's Upcoming Global Health Strategy: Fully Include Persons with Disabilities!

The European Union is currently revising its strategy on global health. The strategy's aims are to improve health systems and prevent and respond to global health threats as well as tackle all infectious and non-communicable diseases. The strategy will also address inequalities and advance towards universal health coverage. The European Disability Forum (EDF) welcomes this as an important opportunity to include the rights of persons with disabilities in the revised strategy, as it was not the case with the previous strategy. EDF and International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) hence submitted a joint position paper to the European Commission's call for evidence regarding the Strategy. Both organisations see this revision as an important opportunity to ensure that the new strategy, and any related actions are aligned with CRPD obligations as well as with global commitment to leave no one behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the related SDGs, the commitments the EU made at the Global Disability Summit and the World Health Assembly Resolution on the highest attainable standard of health for persons with disabilities. Therefore, they call on the EU to mainstream disability inclusion across all their priority areas, for instance by creating One Health interventions and solutions or ensuring health equity and inclusion in health emergency preparedness and response. The full position paper can be accessed under the

following link.

Information: https://www.edf-feph.org/eus-upcoming-global-health-strategy-fully-include-persons-with-disabilities/

Governments Adopt Landmark Jakarta Declaration Underscoring Rights-Based Approach to Disability-Inclusive Development in Asia and the Pacific

On 21st October 2022, Asian and Pacific countries reaffirmed their commitment to disability-inclusive development, including through advancing meaningful participation of some 700 million persons with disabilities in the region. The groundbreaking Jakarta Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2023-2032 also features a novel gender-responsive life cycle approach to disability inclusion in the region. It was adopted at the conclusion of a high-level intergovernmental meeting - convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and hosted by the Government of Indonesia - to review the progress made in the past 10 years, share good practices and forge consensus on new strategic directions. Noting the region's leadership and strong foundation in disability inclusion over the past three decades, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana called upon governments to further strengthen existing partnerships and cultivate new ones with the private sector, organisations of persons with disabilities and others to create a whole-of-society approach. Despite policy advances in the region, however, persons with disabilities continue to face significant barriers in society – often faring worse in the labour market, being less likely to receive education and remaining underrepresented in political processes compared to their peers without disabilities. The three-day meeting saw Ministers, officials and stakeholder group representatives from 41 countries delve into innovative strategies for the region to remove such barriers while responding to emerging challenges, such as population ageing, digital transformation and climate change.

Information: https://www.unescap.org/news/governments-adopt-landmark-jakarta-declaration-underscoring-rights-based-approach-disability

UN Disability Rights Committee Publishes Findings on Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Lao, New Zealand, Singapore and Ukraine

On 9th September 2022, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) issued its country reviews on Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, New Zealand and Singapore, as well as a special report on the situation of people with disabilities in Ukraine. The Committee reviewed the nine State parties during its latest session. The findings contain the Committee's main concerns and recommendations on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as positive aspects. For instance, the report on Ukraine sheds light on the Committee's concern that people with disabilities were reportedly trapped in the conflict zones, the evacuation of the institutions in conflict areas was not prioritised and their access to basic rights such as food and acceptable standard of living are jeopardised. Findings of the above country reviews, officially known as Concluding Observations, as well as the special report on Ukraine, are available on the session webpage under the following link.

Information: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/SessionDetails1.aspx?SessionID=2545&Lang=en

Persons Affected by Leprosy Excluded from Conversations around Disability: Rights Expert

People affected by leprosy should be fully recognised as persons with disabilities, both at the national and global levels, said the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members, Alice Cruz. Leprosy - a chronic infectious disease that mainly affects the skin, eyes, upper respiratory tract, and peripheral nerves - is curable and treatment in the early stages can prevent disability, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). But throughout history, people living with leprosy have often been shunned by their communities and even their families. Ms. Cruz, who advocates for people diagnosed with the age-old disease, delivered her latest report to the UN General Assembly in New York. She cited the physical impairments that leprosy causes, as well as discrimination based on harmful stereotypes surrounding the disease, as grounds for their full recognition in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She states that family members of persons affected by leprosy self-identify as persons with psychosocial disabilities owing to stigmatisation and discrimination on the ground of leprosy, yet persons affected by leprosy and

their family members have been largely excluded from the global conversation about disability. While Ms. Cruz acknowledged progress at the national level to recognise equality for persons with disabilities, she urged countries to do more to effectively implement the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. She urged countries to increase efforts to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of persons affected by leprosy by both recognising their disability rights and ensuring their participation in policymaking.

Information: https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130212

Programme from Brazil Promoting Access to Literature for People with Disabilities Wins UNESCO Literacy Prize

Institute Include (Instituto Incluir) from Brazil is awarded the UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy for its project Accessible Literature (Literatura Acessível). Institute Include is a non-profit organisation based in Brazil that aims to promote social inclusion of people with disabilities through education, culture, and sport. Through the establishment of partnerships with private and public actors, at national and international level, the Institute develops programmes to advance social participation of people with disabilities, fighting social inequalities and encouraging social transformation. The programme Accessible Literature aims, through a collection of ten books available in multiple formats, such as simple reading, braille, libras (Brazilian sign language), audio description and pictograms, to promote and advance access to literature for children and young people with disabilities. The stories are designed to allow learners to develop physical and psychological skills, creating characters with disabilities and showing how they can live a good quality life, experiencing different kinds of social activities. The programme has enrolled 2,022 learners and hopes to be extended in other parts of the world.

Information: https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/programme-brazil-promoting-access-literature-people-disabilities-wins-unesco-literacy-prize

University of Ghana to Establish Centre for Disability Studies and Advocacy

Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo, Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana, says the University's Council has approved the establishment of a Centre for Disability Studies and Advocacy. The key objectives of Centre, Prof Amfo said, was to support differently abled members of the University community and encourage research and advocacy on disability issues. She said the University was committed to the creation of the best environment for equal opportunity in gender and diversity, as contained in its Strategic Plan. Further information is not yet available. Prof Amfo announced that for the 2021/2022 academic year, 33 students with disabilities were admitted to various programmes and assisted to obtain accommodation.

Information: https://www.gna.org.gh/1.21537967

World Mental Health Day: Support Conflict Survivors

On 10th October, World Mental Health Day, Human Rights Watch urged governments, UN agencies, and humanitarian organisations to take concrete steps to develop and invest in psychosocial support for people affected by armed conflicts. In line with this years' theme, to "make mental health and well-being for all a global priority," the focus should be on community-based, rights-respecting services both in conflict countries and in countries where people are fleeing to. Conflict-related violence can lead to psychological distress, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress. An estimated 22 percent of people living in areas affected by armed conflict have a mental health condition, compared with about 13 percent in the general population. Yet, the services available are often insufficient. Human Rights Watch research in countries including Afghanistan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Gaza, Iraq, South Sudan, and Syria has shown that people, particularly women and people with disabilities, often face barriers in accessing mental health services. Shantha Rau Barriga, disability rights director at Human Rights Watch reminds decision-makers: "The war in Ukraine is the latest reminder that governments and humanitarian agencies need to recognise mental health as a priority and expand psychosocial support services to all those affected by conflicts."

Information: https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/10/10/world-mental-health-day-support-conflict-survivors

Call for Memberships - Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI)

Transforming Communities for Inclusion (TCI) is an independent global Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (OPD), focusing on the monitoring and implementation of all human rights, for persons with psychosocial disabilities. They are guided by the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), with a special focus on

Article 19 (Living independently and being included in communities). Their aim is to mobilise persons with psychosocial disabilities and their organisations to advocate for inclusion within disability and development. The TCI is calling for persons with psychosocial disabilities, organisations of persons with psychosocial disabilities run by themselves as well as NGOs, INGOs, Cross-Disability Organisations, friends of TCI and technical support agencies who provide a range of support functions for the inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the development process to apply for membership. One can apply for either individual or organisational membership.

Information: https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/call-memberships-transforming-communities-inclusion-tci

Kampagne #LivingInclusion: Plattform für die Lebenserfahrungen von Menschen mit Behinderung

Das Globalvorhaben Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH hat die Kampagne #LivingInclusion ins Leben gerufen und dafür eine Webseite erstellt, die verdeutlichen soll, dass Inklusion möglich und umsetzbar ist. Im Auftrag des Bundesministeriums für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ) hat die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) mit Menschen aus dem Globalen Süden gesprochen: aus Ghana, Jordanien, Georgien, Südafrika, Kambodscha. Insgesamt kamen 21 inspirierende Menschen zu Wort. Sie sprechen über ihr Leben mit einer Behinderung, über Herausforderungen und Chancen, Rückschläge und Erfolge. Die Interviews werden nach und nach auf der Website veröffentlicht. Außerdem beinhaltet die Webseite Informationen und Arbeitsmaterialien dazu, wie Inklusion in der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit umgesetzt werden kann. Die Webseite liefert außerdem Möglichkeiten Teil der Kampagne zu werden und Menschen mit Behinderungen durch das Teilen der Geschichten in den sozialen Medien Gehör zu verschaffen.

Information: https://inklusion-leben.org/

Literatur

Mona Christophersen/Ingunn Bjørkhaug/Åge A. Tiltnes

Tracking Disability Inclusion in Multilateral Organisations

This report investigates the developments and efforts to monitor inclusion of persons with disabilities in the programmes and activities of UNHCR, UNICEF, and the World Bank in the years between the first and second Global Disability Summits (2018 and 2022). The report draws primarily on information from, and the experiences shared by, the staff of these three multilateral organisations. It asks if and how recent polices, guidelines, and accountability frameworks have led to improvement in the monitoring of disability inclusion. Although this report finds certain progress regarding the monitoring of disability inclusion since the first Global Disability Summit, particularly on strategies and commitments, the findings discuss how the step from ambitions to documentation of successful disability inclusion continues to be limited. UNICEF was only able to track that 1 percent of estimated 240 million children with disabilities was included in its programs in 2020. UNHCR, limited to track its targeted efforts, could document that 0.5 percent of the estimated 12 million refugees with disabilities were included in its service and protection efforts. While the World Bank did not provide numbers documenting disability inclusion. The report discusses challenges of implementing good-quality management and monitoring systems and some of the reasons behind the low numbers documented.

Bezug: https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/60fea532c3e33e5c5701d99a/621f35f5753580011152d4ea_Fafo-rapporten.pdf

Inclusive Futures

Applying CRPD Standards to Programmatic Processes: A Look at Inclusive Programming in Practice

In recent times, there is growing attention to meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities and organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). However, there is a disconnect between the understanding of what comprises meaningful engagement of persons with disabilities and how to translate it across the different stages of the project cycle. This paper is informed by the journey of OPDs progressively negotiating a more meaningful place at the decision-making table, and partners transforming their ways of working and the roles typically assigned to OPDs. It is complemented by learning and recommendations around meaningful OPD engagement that e.g. the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and its allies engaged in during the past few years, in particular through the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) network and the 2022 Global Disability Summit. This paper is addressed to development and humanitarian practitioners, international organisations, OPDs, and donors. It gives practical examples on how to operationalise CRPD based inclusive programming in the context of the project cycle.

Bezug: https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/ida_crpd_based_inclusive_programming_iw_experience_aug_2022.pdf

Kirsten Young

Exclusive Humanitarianism: Policy Recommendations for Genuine Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

The challenge faced by Somalia's newly established National Disability Agency (NDA), along with other emerging actors in the disability arena, is how to address the perception that disability is primarily a humanitarian issue in a country that not only is in conflict but also faces cyclical humanitarian crises. A further challenge for the NDA is how to ensure that the humanitarian architecture put in place facilitates non-discrimination, as well as the inclusion of and participation by persons with disabilities. While a typical humanitarian architecture can inadvertently reinforce an already stigmatising charity or welfare approach towards persons with disabilities, Somalia's experience demonstrates that humanitarian actors can do a lot with leadership, a willingness to leave agency branding behind, and an active committed partner such as the NDA. Nevertheless, genuine inclusion in Somalia's overall State-building project needs also to be the remit of development, reconciliation and similar actors, with access to and participation of persons with disabilities guaranteed in their range of processes and frameworks.

Bezug: https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-review-of-the-red-cross/article/exclusive-humanitarianism-policy-recommendations-for-genuine-inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-humanitarian-action/22C49A4C5CDC72484C32BFD700D528B3

Oliver Lough/Veronique Barbelet/Sarah Njeri

Inclusion and Exclusion in Humanitarian Action: Findings from a Three-Year Study

In recent years, the humanitarian sector has started paying more attention to those it leaves behind, such as people with disabilities, older people, and speakers of minority languages. Since their needs are so often sidelined amid efforts to serve as many people as quickly as possible, this development is both welcome and overdue. In practice, however, translating attention to inclusion into action remains an uphill struggle. This report seeks to explain why, and to suggest what to do about it. It draws on findings from a three-year research project by the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) focused on understanding the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion in humanitarian action, including case studies in north-east Nigeria; the Rohingya refugee response in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh; the urban refugee response in Jordan; and the complex mix of post-conflict recovery and natural-hazard-related disasters in Mindanao, the Philippines.

Bezug: https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/Inclusion_exclusion_synthesis_YQvq77F.pdf

Human Rights Watch

"It Was Really Hard to Protect Myself". Impact of the Armed Conflict on Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities caught up in the Syrian war are at greater risk of harm and lack access to the health care, education, or humanitarian aid needed to protect their basic rights, Human Rights Watch mentioned in this report. The United Nations, the Syrian government, and concerned governments should urgently ensure protection and assistance to meet the needs of children with disabilities in Syria. Human Rights Watch interviewed 34 children and young adults with disabilities, and family members, as well as 20 UN, healthcare, and humanitarian workers. Human Rights Watch focused primarily on people living in northwest and northeast Syria as humanitarian needs in these areas are particularly high and infrastructure is lacking. The report details the abuses faced by children with disabilities, including a heightened risk during attacks and a lack of access to the basic support services they need. The absence of inclusive and universal programmes – including in education, delivery of humanitarian aid, and mental health and psychosocial support services – compounds the difficulties children with disabilities in Syria already experience.

Bezug: https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2022/09/syria0922_web.pdf

Michelle Proyer/Gertraud Kremsner/Barbara Hager/Seyda Subasi Singh

Behinderung und Flucht: Momentaufnahmen zur Situation in der Ukraine und darüber hinaus

In diesem Beitrag setzen sich die Autorinnen mit unterschiedlichen Perspektiven auf die Situation von behinderten Menschen auseinander, deren Leben durch Krisen oder Kriegshandlungen beeinträchtigt werden und die über Flucht nachdenken müssen oder diese hinter sich haben. Aktuell beschäftigt dabei vor allem die Krise in der Ukraine, der Beitrag bietet aber auch eine darüber hinausgehende Perspektive auf in Vergessenheit geratene Fluchtbewegungen an. Er führt in die Intersektion Behinderung und Flucht ein und gibt Einblicke in den Lebensalltag von behinderten Menschen in der Ukraine vor und seit den Kriegshandlungen. Die spezifischen Herausforderungen werden sowohl hinsichtlich Fragen, welche die Aufnahmegesellschaft beschäftigen, als auch hinsichtlich der prekären Lage vor Ort diskutiert. Ersteres wird durch eine aktuelle case study aufbereitet.

Bezug: https://zds-online.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ZDS_2022_2_7_Proyer_Kremsner_Hager_Subasi-Singh.pdf

Human Rights Watch

Leave No One Behind: People with Disabilities and Older People in Climate-Related Disasters

Extreme weather events, such as heatwaves, floods, wildfires, and other disasters, are projected to become more frequent and intense as a result of the climate crisis, taking a toll on lives and livelihoods around the world. While climate-related disasters affect everyone, they are especially detrimental to the health and wellbeing of people who are already at-risk and live in poverty and face marginalisation, including people with disabilities, older people, indigenous peoples, pregnant people, women, and children. In 2020 and 2021, the United Nations warned that people with disabilities and older people face unique challenges during climate-related disasters. Between March 2021 and October 2022, Human Rights Watch interviewed more than 100 people, including people with disabilities, their families, disability and climate change activists and experts, representatives of humanitarian organisations, and others, as a component of a research on the situation of people with disabilities during climate-related disasters and extreme weather events. Human Rights Watch research indicates that in situations of disasters and extreme weather events, people with disabilities and older people were at higher risk of death, as well as physical and mental health impacts, which were compounded by experiences of poverty and isolation. Human Rights Watch urges governments, the UN, and environmental groups to include and use the expertise of disability and older people's rights advocates to jointly improve future preparations and support for extreme weather,

ensuring that all have access, and no one is left behind.

Bezug: http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2022/11/202211drd_global_LeaveNoOneBehind.pdf

Pacific Disability Forum (PDF)/ International Disability Alliance (IDA)/CBM Global's Inclusion Advisory Group

Our Lessons: An Approach to Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction – Based on Consultations with People with Disabilities in the Asia and Pacific Regions

The Asia-Pacific region has the highest rate of natural hazard events in the world. Communities across this region need to be prepared for disasters. Although the Sendai Framework recognises that people with disabilities are crucial contributing stakeholders, people with disabilities across Asia and the Pacific continue to be systematically excluded from disaster preparedness activities, which places them at greater risk. To help disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction (DRR) become a reality, the authors worked together to conduct inclusive consultations across Asia and the Pacific, to seek the perspectives, experiences, and priorities of the diverse range of people with disabilities in relation to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Drawing upon these consultations, this report highlights the stories and experiences of people with disabilities from Asia and the Pacific in recent disasters, including COVID-19. The report also delivers findings and recommendations from the sub-regions to inform governments, the development and humanitarian sectors, and other actors involved in disaster policy, mitigation, and response.

Bezug: https://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CBM-Inclusion-Advisory-Group-IAG-Our-Lessons-report-May-2022.pdf

CBM Global Disability Inclusion

Climate Change and Its Humanitarian Consequences the Impact on Persons with Disabilities in Southern Madagascar

CBM Global Disability Inclusion has produced a case study on the impact of climate change in Madagascar, the ongoing food crisis and the challenges faced by persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in accessing humanitarian assistance. During the last four years, the combined effects of climate change, environmental degradation – deforestation and soil exhaustion, the COVID-19 pandemic and the already severe poverty levels, have resulted in one of the worst food insecurity emergencies in forty years in Madagascar. The case study details the impact of these intersecting crisis on people with disabilities, the barriers they face in community initiatives, their challenges in accessing humanitarian aid and the need for organisations of people with disabilities to be included in climate mitigation and adaptation policies.

Bezug: https://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Climate-Change-and-its-Humanitarian-Consequences.pdf

Pacific Disability Forum

Disability and Climate Change in the Pacific Findings from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) with the support of Australia through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade undertook research focused on the vulnerabilities and opportunities for building climate and disaster resilience of persons with disabilities in the Pacific. The research was exploratory and included participants from Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Tuvalu, who were willing to share their experiences and stories. It provides important insights on how climate change is affecting persons with disabilities in the Pacific. Findings and recommendations from the study will be used by PDF to build its future programming on the needs of persons with disabilities in relation to climate change impacts, adaptation, and policy mainstreaming.

Bezug: https://pacificdisability.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/PDF-Final-Report-on-Climate-Change-and-Persons-with-Disabilities.pdf

Sophie Mitra/Jaclyn Yap

Disability Data Report 2022

Achieving rights as stipulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires quality, timely and policy-relevant disability data. This report first reviews disability questions in national population censuses and household surveys globally from 2009 to 2021 to assess if they can identify persons with disabilities. Second, the report disaggregates 32 indicators by disability status using data from Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 6 (MICS6) for women aged 18 to 49 in 35 countries. Disability status is measured through the Washington Group Short Set on Functioning (WG-SS). The authors find inequalities associated with functional difficulties in all areas of wellbeing, particularly educational attainment, information and communication technology, sexual and reproductive health, multidimensional poverty, reporting being discriminated against, feeling safe, and subjective wellbeing. While most of the countries under study have ratified the CRPD, results suggest that more data collection, research and policy work are needed to address intersectional disadvantages and improve the situation of women with disabilities worldwide.

Bezug: https://disabilitydata.ace.fordham.edu/twentyreport/disability-data-initiative-2022-report/

Daniel Mont/Jennifer Madans/ Julie D. Weeks/Heidi Ullmann

Harmonising Disability Data to Improve Disability Research and Policy

Disability is complex and multifaceted, complicating governments' efforts to collect the high-quality, comprehensive data necessary for developing, implementing, and monitoring policies. Yet data are needed to obtain information on functioning in the population, to identify the population with disabilities, and to disaggregate indicators of well-being by disability to determine whether people with disabilities are participating in society to the same extent as those without disabilities. In this article the authors discuss the need for data harmonisation to improve disability research and policy. They describe standard question sets on disability developed for inclusion in surveys and administrative systems, as well as the need for coordination of both statistical and administrative data systems. Until disability data become more harmonised, it will not be possible to support the development of comprehensive, evidence-based policies and programs to address the needs of the population with disabilities.

Bezug: https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/epdf/10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00479

UNICEF

Early Detection Tools for Children with Developmental Delays and Disabilities in the Middle East and North Africa

This technical brief was developed to support specialists in countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to select which early detection tools best fit their needs and context by comparing various tools that have been used in the region and lessons learned in using and adapting those tools to local contexts.

Bezug: https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/17821/file/Early%20detection%20tools%20for%20children%20with%20developmental%20delays%20and%20disabilities%20in%20MENA.pdf

The Missing Billlion Initiative/ Clinton Health Access Initiative

Reimagining Health Systems That Expect, Accept and Connect 1 Billion People with Disabilities

This new report, which was released at the World Health Summit in Berlin, builds the evidence-base that people with disabilities are being excluded in health. This includes shocking disparities in mortality and life expectancy, with people with disabilities on average living 10 to 20 years less than people without disabilities. The report presents a vision of inclusive health informed by the perspectives of people with disabilities and a roadmap and the 4 Million Targets aimed to mobilise change amongst health leaders and advocates. SDG health targets including universal health coverage cannot be met without an overhaul of our health systems globally.

Bezug: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5d79d3afbc2a705c96c5d2e5/t/634d9409d12381407c9c4dc8/1666028716085/MBReport_Reimagining+Health+Systems_Oct22

Ground Truth Solutions/ International Organisation of Migration/Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

"We Bear It and Accept Our Fate": Perceptions of Healthcare Access from People with Disabilities in Cox's Bazar

In November and December 2021, Ground Truth Solutions (GTS) and the International Organisation for Migration's (IOM) Needs and Population Monitoring unit (NPM) conducted qualitative interviews with persons with mobility and vision impairments from Rohingya refugee and host community populations with the aim of better informing and supporting agencies in developing disability-inclusive programmes and engagement activities. These interviews focused on access to health services, aiming to gain insight into how people with disabilities experience engaging with healthcare services – as well as perceived barriers to access. It also looked at health information needs so that the humanitarian community will be better equipped to identify gaps in programming, deliver more equitable services, and build trust with this marginalised group. To weave tangible experiences into the narrative and bring findings to life, this research created a set of personas derived from key informant interviews with Rohingya and Host Community people with disabilities in Cox's Bazar.

Bezug: https://groundtruthsolutions.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/GTS_people-with-disabilities-access-to-healthcare_July-2022-1.pdf

CBM Australia

What's Stopping Women with Disabilities from Reporting Gender-Based Violence?: Research from Northwest Cameroon

Women with disabilities are more likely to experience violence than women without a disability and are less likely to disclose incidents of sexual violence and domestic abuse. CBM Australia's partner, the Cameroon Baptist Convention, recently undertook a research project to better understand what stops women and girls with disabilities in the Northwest region of Cameroon from reporting incidents of sexual violence and domestic abuse. This report highlights what they found and offers recommendations for civil society groups, and local and international humanitarian actors responding to gender-based violence. The recommendations are relevant in many developing country contexts, including in emergencies.

Bezug: https://www.cbm.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/CBC-gender-based-violence-report-women-disabilities-northwest-cameroon.pdf

Humanity & Inclusion (HI)

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for All: Disability Inclusion from Theory to Practice

To advance the rights of persons with disabilities and reduce unmet needs for sexual reproductive health information and services, Humanity & Inclusion (HI) has developed this Guideline to discuss inclusive practices in sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). Based on technical guidance put into practice during the WISH2ACTION 8 Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for All: Disability Inclusion from Theory to Practice project, the Guideline draws on HI's long-term experience working alongside persons with disabilities at the global, regional, national, and local level to expand access to SRHR information and services and advocate for greater inclusion in the health sector. The Guideline aims to provide practical guidance to enable health providers, local and national authorities, and others working in the health sector to ensure high quality and accessible rights based SRH information and services for all. It collects and shares relevant normative resources and standards as well as lessons learned, technical content, and tools HI has developed and tested working in partnership with persons with disabilities and their representative organisations. The Guideline also draws on technical resources developed by other organisations engaging in this field, such as the Women's Refugee Commission, Sightsavers, and the International Rescue Committee, all of which are committed to assessing and improving accessibility and quality of services for persons with disabilities.

Bezug: https://assets.nationbuilder.com/handicapinternational/pages/3998/attachments/original/1656685227/2._FINAL_HI_iSRHR_Guidelines_P4_digital.pdf?1656685227

SeeYou Foundation

Taking Steps Towards Disability Inclusive (Sexual and Reproductive) Health

In this publication is sharing the key learnings from Every Life Matters (ELM), a multi-country-country initiative to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in sexual & reproductive health and eye care in Ethiopia, Rwanda and Mozambique. The organisation explains successes, but also describes struggles, they were facing in the project implementation. The publication is also featuring tools that have been developed to make health care services accessible for persons with disabilities. Even though, the Every Life Matters programme concentrated on a small aspect of health care (mainly Sexual & Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Eye Care and Neglected Tropical Diseases), the lessons learned can also be used for other sectors of health services.

Bezug: https://www.seeyoufoundation.nl/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/22_032_SEE.018-Publicatie-ELM-05-240522.pdf

Emma M. Smith/ Stephanie Huff/Holly Wescott/Rebecca Daniel et al.

Assistive Technologies Are Central to the Realisation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Assistive technologies (ATs) promote participation and inclusion in society, and support access to health, social services, education, work, and other important life experiences for persons with disabilities, older people and those with chronic conditions. The Global Report on Assistive Technology, launched in May 2022 by WHO and UNICEF, calls for concrete actions to improve access to AT globally, and recognises AT as both a means to, and an end itself, in the achievement of rights of persons with disabilities. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is the most widely ratified human rights convention, affirming the right to participation in society on an equal basis with others. In this paper, we highlight examples of how AT may play a role in realising each of the fundamental rights affirmed in the UNCRPD. The article concludes that ensuring adequate provision of AT by states parties is critical to the progressive realisation of the rights of persons with disabilities and to fulfilling commitments made by states parties upon ratification of the CRPD.

Bezug: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/17483107.2022.2099987?needAccess=true

Lisa-Dionne Morris/Ola Abu Alghaib/James Northridge

Capability-Sensitive Principles for Assistive Technology to Support Young Graduates with Disabilities in Bangladesh and Kenya into Employment

Owing to increased inclusion of young people with disabilities into the private sector in Bangladesh and Kenya, there is an urgent need to find alternative ways to support young graduates with a disability in the workplace with assistive technology solutions. The aim of the paper is to identify barriers for private workplace sectors to use assistive technology to support young graduates seeking, maintaining, and retaining employment. Data were collected using interviews and focus group discussions and analysed using thematic analysis. The findings reveal that barriers are linked to seven key person-centred capability themes: the dream, external factors, internal factors, assistive technology vision, strategic design priorities and gaps and assistive actions.

Bezug: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/

doi/10.1002/jid.3691

Global Disability Innovation Hub/Humanity & Inclusion/ CBM Global Disability Inclusion/ Centre for Disability in Development

Assistive Technology in Two Humanitarian Contexts: Bangladesh and Jordan

Despite increased focus on the need for assistive technology (AT), along with estimates of need and gaps in provision in humanitarian contexts, very little is actually known about how people who need AT are managing in these contexts. To address this need, this study explored what is currently known about the need for AT in humanitarian contexts, how the need is met, what gaps are there in the evidence about these needs and what mechanisms are needed to ensure provision of AT in humanitarian contexts. It explored these questions through individual interviews with AT users and their families, as well as people working in the sector, in two humanitarian response contexts: Bangladesh and Jordan. The questions focused on the areas identified as gaps in the initial literature review and used qualitative methodologies to probe and gain further insight into gaps across the entire AT ecosystem.

Bezug: https://at2030.org/static/at2030_core/outputs/Report_on_AT_in_Two_Humanitarian_Settings.pdf

Global Partnership for Education (GPE)

Household Survey Data on Disability and Education in GPE Partner Countries

Better data is needed on disability in GPE partner countries to understand the extent to which children with disabilities are excluded from education, so that countries can make evidence-based and inclusive education policy and plans, and progress can be monitored globally. As part of its work helping to build robust education management information systems (EMIS), GPE has supported work on collecting better data on disability through school censuses. However, there are limitations on the extent to which EMIS can gather accurate data on individual children's disabilities or on children who are out of school. Nationally representative household surveys and censuses that collect data on both education and disability using reliable and comparable methods are essential sources of information on the extent to which children with disabilities are in school and completing school. This working paper assesses the availability of household surveys and censuses with disability data across GPE partner countries. The paper is based on data, which was collected between 2010-2020, and concludes with recommendations for making more and better data available.

Bezug: https://assets.globalpartnership.org/s3fs-public/document/file/2022-08-Household-survey-data-on-disability-and-education.pdf?VersionId=zB25KSdzX.65zABdrPjztc0IX0oK95EJ

CBM Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM)

Learning from a Crisis: Inclusive Education during the First Years of the Pandemic

The new CBM report shows that COVID-19 has further exposed the fragility of education systems around the globe and deepened inequalities in access to basic education for children with disabilities from the poorest families. In many countries, children with disabilities often lack supportive infrastructure and support during closure. Children and learners with disabilities did not have access to nutritious food and therapeutic services. They could not access specialised teachers, assistive learning tools and technologies, and structured learning environments. CBM's report draws on everything they and their partners have learned from their work on inclusive education in the early years of the pandemic. It includes practical examples from the work of dedicated staff, practitioners and volunteers around the world who have tried to support children with disabilities and their families, as well as links to useful resources and further reading.

Bezug: https://www.cbm.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Learning_from_a_Crisis-Inclusive_Education_During_the_First_Year_of_the_Pandemic.pdf

World Bank

Understanding Multidimensional Determinants of Disability-Inclusive Education: Lessons from Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zambia

Children with disabilities undoubtedly face barriers within the education system, however they also face significant challenges within the broader ecosystem that can significantly undermine their and their family's ability to pursue educational opportunities on par with their peers without disabilities. This study aimed to understand what key determinants beyond school-based factors shaped the experiences of children with disabilities and their families' ability to support their educational participation in primary school through case studies in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zambia. The report also includes findings from a short regional survey of parents' and caregivers' perceptions across Sub-Saharan Africa. The study explored factors such as parental aspirations and involvement in their child's education; stigma and attitudes about children with disabilities; access to necessary supports such as assistive devices, learning materials, and personal assistance; additional and out-of-pocket costs borne by families to support the educational participation of children with disabilities as compared to children without

disabilities; accessibility of community infrastructure and transportation; and financial resources and government benefits available to families to support their child's education.

Bezug: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/37967

Humanity & Inclusion

The Real Lives behind the Data: Children with Disabilities in Education Across Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and the Occupied Palestinian Territory

This factsheet presents six stories from children with disabilities, collected by Humanity & Inclusion in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and the occupied Palestinian territory. The stories are presented alongside data and facts taken from country-focused factsheets on inclusive education, produced by Humanity & Inclusion's teams in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and the occupied Palestinian territory. This factsheet also builds on the evidence from the Gender Equality Study in Education in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which was conducted by Humanity & Inclusion in 2021 through 64 surveys and 15 in-depth interviews with parents of children with and without disabilities, as well as through semi-structured interviews and focus groups with informants from the education, protection, and community-based rehabilitation sectors.

Bezug: https://www.inclusive-education-initiative.org/knowledge-repository/real-lives-behind-data-children-disabilities-education-across-egypt-jordan

Elijah Musenyente/Marie L. Han/Michel Knigge

Implementation of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Public and Private Schools in Three Districts of Uganda

This study was grounded in the recent developments of implementing the United Nations Convention on the Right of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) in schools in Uganda, leading to a renewed interest in the questionings about inclusive education. The inclusive approach was evaluated in terms of how public or private schools in Uganda understand inclusive education; how schools implement inclusive education under the influence of the UN Convention; and what determines the course of action and school routine of private and state schools. The research demonstrated that the inclusive education practice that was upheld by all the schools, was ironically stained with exclusion, for example, by non-admission of students with visual and hearing impairment, inaccessible physical environment, inadequate funding and separation of students according to abilities. However, whilst all schools followed the regular curriculum, some schools developed their own ways of teaching learners with diverse learning needs. Hence, the intention of inclusion of students with disabilities stands in contrast to the reality of practice found in many schools.

Bezug: https://ajod.org/index.php/ajod/article/view/908/2028

Jennifer Remnant/Lena Wånggren/Sarah Huque et al.

Disability Inclusive Employment in Urban Malawi: A Multi-perspective Interview Study

The paper presents interview data from Malawian government representatives, trade unionists, employers, and people with disabilities from the country's largest cities Lilongwe and Blantyre. Findings relate to the gap between the discourse of employers and government officials and that of workers with disabilities. Firstly, the authors find a policy-based assumption of a formalised workforce that is not representative of the predominantly informal disabled workforce. Secondly, the disruptive, intermittent, and often reactive nature of non-governmental organisation (NGO) interventions can limit long-term inclusivity agendas and undermine the work of disabled activists in Malawi. Lastly, they present findings on the stigmatised nature of disability in these urban centres. They find that stigma is economic: Urban workers with disabilities are discriminated against locally by employers, landlords and banks on assumptions they will not produce or earn enough to meet productivity demands, rent or repayment costs.

Bezug: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jid.3678

Terry Krupa/Rosemary Lysagh/Yetnayet S. Yehuala/Heather M. Aldersey et al.

Activity and Participation Experiences of People with Disabilities in Ethiopia

Ethiopia, as a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), has committed to upholding the rights of people with disabilities in Ethiopia. There is little evidence, however, reflecting the impact of this commitment on the lived experiences of people with disabilities in Ethiopia. This study sought to uncover how the experiences of participation and activity shape the enactment of rights for Ethiopians with disabilities as enshrined in the UNCRPD. The study finds that despite legislative efforts to bring about change in Ethiopia, people with disabilities continue to live on the social margins. A meaningful change will require substantial allocation of needed resources by the Ethiopian

government to support national-level programmes and policy change. It is critical that people with disabilities and their families are engaged in receiving relevant support and serve as change leaders.

Bezug: https://ajod.org/index.php/ajod/article/view/1002/1949

Matthews M. Makwela/Elizabeth I. Smit

Psychosocial Challenges of Children with Disabilities in Sekhukhune District, Limpopo Province of South Africa: Towards a Responsive Integrated Disability Strategy

Disability, and everything it encompasses, presents major challenges to individuals, families and communities worldwide. Children with disabilities (CWD) are marginalised and excluded in most societies. Discrimination and prejudice towards CWD are compounded by poverty, lack of essential services and support and sometimes a hostile and inaccessible environment. The study sought to examine the psychosocial challenges experienced by CWD in the Sekhukhune district of Limpopo province, South Africa. Based on the identified, articulated and expressed challenges, the study sought to recommend improvement of the existing Integrated National Disability Strategy (INDS) for greater responsiveness to the needs of CWD at both provincial and local levels. The findings revealed that CWD in Sekhukhune experienced numerous challenges which affected their social functioning, development, and general well-being. Aggravating factors included stigma, labelling and discrimination; disability-specific discrimination and bullying; exclusive education; sexual exploitation; lack of governmental support and poor implementation of disability-specific policies, amongst others. The provisions of the INDS to promote inclusion, integration, mainstreaming and equitable access to resources and services remained an ideal rather than a reality for CWD in Sekhukhune.

Bezug: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9350487/pdf/AJOD-11-799.pdf

Lieketseng Y. Ned/Kudakwashe Dube/Leslie Swartz

Challenges and Opportunities of Centring the African Voice in Disability Research

In 2020, the African Network of Evidence to Action on Disability (also known as AFRINEAD) hosted its 10th conference in Cape Town. This paper synthesises inputs by the three authors as plenary addresses, particularly focusing on the challenges and opportunities of centring African voices in disability research. Their concern is to engage with the question of exclusion as an issue not just in the everyday lives of people with disabilities but also in the world of ideas – the ideational space. The authors suggest that a reimagined disability study depends on the centring of African experiences, voices and knowledges. This is especially so as there are African concepts that are not rigorously pursued in research. African Renaissance thinking makes allowance not only for critically reflecting on the historical and contemporary constructs of disability but also for fashioning a higher civilisation in which people with disabilities can exist within society as worthy and valued human beings.

Bezug: https://ajod.org/index.php/ajod/article/view/1089/2043

Veranstaltungen/Events

01.05.-02.05.2023

International Conference on Social and Environmental Justice, Fordham University, New York City, USA

Information: https://www.fordham.edu/academics/research/office-of-research/events/international-conference-on-social-and-environmental-justice/

Kontakt: dheston@fordham.edu

IDDC General Assembly 2023, Taastrup, Denmark

Information: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4pl_-qXqCOZ4LncL-3mOyY0ExynthKO0Fn832bce1dEXNYw/viewform

Kontakt: admin@iddcconsortium.net

Hochschullehrenden-Workshop „Inklusive Bildung für nachhaltige Entwicklung als Thema in Lehre und Forschung“, Bonn

Information: https://www.bezev.de/projekt-all-means-all

Kontakt: langensiepen@bezev.de

Dritter Kongress der Teilhabeforschung: “Recht auf Teilhabe in allen Lebensbereichen!”, Universität zu Köln, Lehrstuhl für Pädagogik und Rehabilitation bei Menschen mit geistiger und komplexer Behinderung in Kooperation mit dem Aktionsbündnis Teilhabeforschung

Information: https://www.teilhabeforschung.org/kongresse/2023/ueberblick

Kontakt: aktionsbuendnis@teilhabeforschung.org

Schwerpunktthemen kommender Ausgaben der Zeitschrift
Focal Topics of Upcoming Issues

1/2023:
Inklusion in der Daseinsvorsorge
Inclusion in the Provision of Public Services

2/2023:
Menschen mit Behinderungen und Klimawandel
Persons with Disabilites and Climate Change

3/2023:
Digitale Teilhabe
Digital Inclusion

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Redaktionsschluss für zukünftige Ausgaben
Deadlines for the upcoming issues

	1/2023	2/2023	3/2023
Hauptbeiträge/Focal articles	01.12.2022	01.03.2023	01.07.2023
Kurzbeiträge/Other contributions	01.02.2023	01.05.2023	01.09.2023

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Behinderung und internationale Entwicklung

Die Zeitschrift Behinderung und internationale Entwicklung erscheint seit 1990 dreimal jährlich mit Beiträgen sowohl in deutscher als auch englischer Sprache. Ihr Anspruch ist es, ein Medium für einen grenzüberschreitenden Informationsaustausch zur Thematik zu bieten sowie die fachliche Diskussion zu pädagogischen, sozial- und entwicklungspolitischen sowie interkulturellen Fragen im Zusammenhang mit Behinderung im Globalen Süden weiterzuentwickeln. Jede Ausgabe ist einem Schwerpunktthema gewidmet, das durch Einzelbeiträge und einen aktuellen Informationsteil ergänzt wird.

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Disability and International Development

The journal Disability and International Development is published three times a year since 1990, featuring contributions in both English and German. Its objective is the scholarly and practice-oriented discourse on disability in the Global South. The journal aims at providing a platform for a cross-border dialogue and promoting the professional discussion of related development policy, pedagogical/educational, socio-political and intercultural questions. Each issue is dedicated to a focal topic, complemented by single contributions on other subjects and up-to-date information.

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