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Editorial

Liebe Leser*innen,

weltweit leben rund 1 Milliarde Menschen mit Behinderungen – viele von ihnen werden in Entwicklungsstrategien und politischen Maßnahmen nach wie vor übersehen. Fehlende Barrierefreiheit, nicht angepasste Kommunikation und gesellschaftliche Vorurteile verhindern ihre volle Teilhabe an Bildung, Arbeit und gesellschaftlichem Leben. Die UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention (UN-BRK) und die UN-Agenda 2030 mit ihren Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) setzen genau hier an: Sie sind zentrale Instrumente, um die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen zu stärken und ihre soziale, wirtschaftliche und politische Teilhabe zu fördern. Während die UN-BRK speziell die Achtung und den Schutz der Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen fokussiert, widmen sich die SDGs der umfassenden nachhaltigen Entwicklung, wobei mehrere Ziele explizit oder implizit auf Menschen mit Behinderungen ausgerichtet sind. Die Überschneidungen dieser beiden Rahmenwerke machen sie zu entscheidenden Bezugspunkten für Politik und Entwicklungszusammenarbeit.

Diese Ausgabe richtet ihren Fokus auf Afrika, um Chancen und Herausforderungen bei der Umsetzung von UN-BRK und SDGs auf dem Kontinent zu beleuchten. Die folgenden Ausgaben werden andere Regionen in den Blick nehmen, um ein globales Bild der inklusiven Umsetzung von Menschenrechten und nachhaltiger Entwicklung zu zeichnen.

In dieser Ausgabe analysiert Daniel Chigudu, wie die UN-BRK und die SDGs in Afrika miteinander verknüpft werden können, um inklusive Strategien zu fördern, und weist gleichzeitig auf bestehende Herausforderungen wie Ressourcenmangel und soziokulturelle Hürden hin. Priscille Geiser und ihre Kolleg*innen stellen die erste nationale Strategie zur Teilhabe von Menschen mit Behinderungen Mauretaniens vor und zeigen, wie gezielte Budgetzuweisungen bis 2030 die inklusive Umsetzung der SDGs stärken können. Edmos Mtetwa untersucht die wirtschaftliche Teilhabe von Menschen mit Behinderungen in Simbabwe und macht deutlich, dass staatliche Unterstützung ihr ökonomisches Potenzial erheblich freisetzen könnte. Msafiri Ngololo beleuchtet die Situation inklusiver Wohnungs- und Stadtentwicklung in informellen Siedlungen Subsahara-Afrikas und plädiert für barrierefreie Infrastruktur, partizipative Planung und inklusive urbane Gestaltung im Sinne der UN-BRK und relevanter SDGs.

Die Beiträge dieser Ausgabe verdeutlichen, dass die Umsetzung der UN-BRK und die inklusive Berücksichtigung von Menschen mit Behinderungen innerhalb der SDGs noch immer mit zahlreichen Herausforderungen verbunden ist, gleichzeitig aber enorme Chancen bietet, um ein gerechteres und nachhaltigeres Afrika zu gestalten.

Wir wünschen Ihnen eine aufschlussreiche und inspirierende Lektüre!

Ihr Redaktionsteam

Dear readers,

Around 1 billion people worldwide live with disabilities – many of whom continue to be overlooked in development strategies and political measures. A lack of accessibility, inadequate communication and social prejudices prevent them from participating fully in education, work and social life. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and the UN Agenda 2030 with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address precisely this issue: they are key instruments for strengthening the rights of persons with disabilities and promoting their social, economic and political participation. While the UN CRPD focuses specifically on respecting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, the SDGs are dedicated to comprehensive sustainable development, with several goals explicitly or implicitly targeting persons with disabilities. The overlaps between these two frameworks make them crucial points of reference for policy and development cooperation.

This issue focuses on Africa to highlight opportunities and challenges in implementing the UNCRPD and SDGs on the continent. Subsequent issues will look at other regions to paint a global picture of the inclusive implementation of human rights and sustainable development.

In this issue, Daniel Chigudu analyses how the CRPD and the SDGs can be linked in Africa to promote inclusive strategies, while also pointing out existing challenges such as resource shortages and socio-cultural barriers. Priscille Geiser and her colleagues present Mauritania's first national disability strategy and show how targeted budget allocations can strengthen the inclusive implementation of the SDGs by 2030. Edmos Mtetwa examines the economic participation of people with disabilities in Zimbabwe and makes it clear that government support could significantly unlock their economic potential. Msafiri Ngololo highlights the situation of inclusive housing and urban development in informal settlements in sub-Saharan Africa and advocates for barrier-free infrastructure, participatory planning and inclusive urban design in line with the UN CRPD and relevant SDGs.

The articles in this issue illustrate that the implementation of the UN CRPD and the inclusive consideration of persons with disabilities within the SDGs still faces numerous challenges, but at the same time offers enormous opportunities to create a more equitable and sustainable Africa.

We hope you find this issue insightful and inspiring!

Your editorial team

Bridging Policy and Practice: Evaluating the Intersection of CRPD and SDG Implementation for Disability Inclusion in Africa

Daniel Chigudu

This article examines how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) connect to promote disability inclusion throughout Africa. The study uses secondary qualitative analysis of policy papers and case studies to identify promising strategies, including inclusive advocacy campaigns and capacity-building activities. It draws attention to the difficulties, such as lack of resources, governance deficiencies, and sociocultural hurdles, in coordinating policy frameworks with grassroots implementation. The recommendations focus on bolstering legislative frameworks, providing funding for disability inclusion, and encouraging cooperation with organisations that represent people with disabilities (OPDs). The paper emphasises the importance of including CRPD ideas in SDG plans to accomplish sustainable development.

Introduction

People with disabilities make up about 16% of the world's population, with 80% of them living in the Global South, where they suffer severe socioeconomic obstacles like poverty and restricted access to jobs, healthcare, and education (UNDER 2023). Especially in Africa, stigma, prejudice, and inadequate governance systems further worsen these obstacles (Grech et al. 2023). People in rural areas, where resources are limited, are disproportionately affected by the cycle of exclusion created by the junction of poverty and disability. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) offers a framework for advancing equality and non-discrimination based on human rights. In addition, the *leave no one behind* premise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) places a strong emphasis on inclusive development (OHCHR 2024). By tackling systemic obstacles to inclusion and promoting the involvement of people with disabilities in the formulation and execution of policies, the CRPD and SDGs support one another (OHCHR 2024). Despite these frameworks, there are still gaps in putting policy into effect because of a lack of money, disjointed governance, and data. This study shows a gap between treaty ratification and grassroots implementation in Africa. Sociocultural hurdles, a lack of political will, and inadequate stakeholder participation hamper progress. To ensure meaningful inclusion, addressing these issues calls for a contextualised strategy that incorporates CRPD concepts into SDG strategies. In order to promote disability inclusion in Africa, this study critically assesses how CRPD concepts relate to the SDG goals. It seeks to pinpoint systemic issues, record best practices, and provide workable plans for integrating practice and policy.

Conceptual Framework

Intersection of CRPD and SDGs

Through complementary frameworks, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

encourage disability inclusion. While Article 24 promotes high-quality education by requiring accessible learning environments and outlawing disability exclusion, Article 28 promotes social protection systems that give priority to people with disabilities. By including participation and accessibility, the CRPD ensures disability inclusion and addresses structural obstacles like stigma and fragmented governance, making it essential to realise the SDGs (GIZ 2024; UN 2006; UNDP-Zimbabwe 2024).

Theoretical Lens

The Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA)

The study evaluates inclusion gaps in disability using intersectional analysis and a human rights-based approach (HRBA) (GIZ 2024). It adopts a social paradigm instead of a medical one, acknowledging that social obstacles are the primary source of exclusion. By encouraging inclusive policies and empowering people with disabilities, HRBA places governments in a duty-bearer position. International human rights treaties are in line with it (OHCHR 2024).

Intersectionality in Disability Inclusion

Intersectionality draws attention to the ways that overlapping identities – such as gender, race, disability, or rural residency – amplify injustice and exclusion. Employment gaps are sustained by poverty, cultural shame, inadequate infrastructure, and systemic disadvantages, especially for women with disabilities in Africa. With an emphasis on Indigenous and 2SLGBTQI+ people with disabilities, Canada's Social Development Partnerships Program – Disability (SDPP-D) addresses layered disparities using intersectional frameworks. This strategy recognises non-homogeneous exclusion, such as Malawian rural women with disabilities (GoC 2025). Canada's SDPP-D constitutes a significant move forwards in disability policy recognising that exclusion and disadvantage do not often occur alone, instead the SDPP-D acknowledges, and breaks down, the idea that people with disabilities are homogenous; and that the disabilities faced, are celebrated, are informing the experience through various intersecting identities including but not limited to, Indigeneity, gender, sexual orientation, etc. In its design and implementation, the program prioritises the intersectional character that is unique and necessary to make the program work for social development amongst those who hold multiple marginalised identities and experience disparities because of those identities. For inclusive budgeting, policy reforms, and intersectional hurdles in disability-inclusive development, grassroots Disabled Persons' Organisations (DPOs) should be incorporated with CRPD principles and SDG targets. To ensure equitable outcomes for all people with disabilities and to overcome complex exclusion hurdles, intersectionality in disability inclusion strategies necessitates cross-sector collaboration, participatory frameworks, and context-specific policies.

Contextual Overview

Disability-Inclusive Development

Disability inclusion is being advanced in national development strategies in Zambia and Kenya. While Kenya's National Disability Mainstreaming Strategy concentrates on accessibility, employment, and services for disabled people, the country's Constitution and Act uphold rights (GoK 2018). By tackling structural obstacles, including stigma and restricted access to resources, Zambia's Persons with Disabilities Act and National Policy on Disability advance the rights of people with disabilities. The Zambia Agency coordinates the National Implementation Plan and disability-inclusive policies for Persons with Disabilities. Countries like Kenya and Zambia have implemented initiatives, including a career site, inclusive education plans, and social cash transfer programs to increase disability inclusion (GoK 2018). Despite a lack of financing and difficulties with enforcement, these initiatives seek to remove obstacles to employment, enhance access to assistance, and lessen stigma.

Barriers to Implementation

The implementation of CRPD is hampered by the absence of trustworthy data on people with disabilities in Africa, which results in inadequate policy targeting and exclusion in sectors like disaster preparedness, healthcare, and education (UNICEF 2024). Budget allocations frequently merge with disadvantaged populations, segregated institutions, and uneven enforcement in nations like Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Kenya, making it difficult to operationalise disability-inclusive policies due to a lack of funding (UNICEF 2025). Due to poor enforcement, disjointed coordination, and a lack of governmental priority for disability rights, CRPD compliance has failed in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and other countries, delaying reporting. Systemic obstacles cause the implementation to lag even after CRPD approval. While South Africa's disjointed laws and little participation from OPDs worsen exclusion, Kenya's Vision 2030 and Zambia's National Disability Policy struggle with grassroots implementation.

Role of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (DPOs)

To influence legislation and fight for the rights of people with disabilities, organisations of persons with disabilities, or DPOs, are essential. They hold governments responsible, monitor the implementation of the CRPD, and represent various disability groups. DPOs in Zimbabwe affect international frameworks such as Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement and increase awareness of disability rights. The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) Disability Capacity Building Program and the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training program have increased the ability of persons with disabilities to advocate for disability inclusion successfully. These programs remove systemic hurdles and encourage meaningful involvement in policymaking processes by providing DPOs with skills in budget lobbying, data monitoring, and legislative harmonisation (IDCC 2025). These programs show DPOs' importance as change agents (Bridge CRPD-SDGs 2025).

Intersectional Challenges

In Africa, women with disabilities are increasingly marginalised as a result of the intersection of gender, poverty, and disability. Due to prejudice and a lack of resources, women are disproportionately affected by poverty, which is higher among disabled people (GCAP 2021). These problems are made worse by cultural stigma, financial limitations, and caring responsibilities, which prolong poverty cycles.

Case Studies: Barriers in Education and Employment

Significant educational inequalities exist in South Africa and Kenya, where over 80% of women with disabilities do not complete Grade 12, which perpetuates barriers to employment. Women with disabilities also face systemic exclusion due to poverty, inaccessible schools, and a lack of assistive devices (GCAP 2021). Women with impairments in Ghana and Zimbabwe have a difficult time finding work because of cultural stigma and a lack of education. Just 1% of people with disabilities in Zambia are in managerial positions, while in Ghana, they deal with discrimination and low-paying seasonal labour (Ncube et al. 2023).

Good Practices and Lessons Learned

Through programs like the Partnership Compact and the TEAM Girl Malawi project, which concentrate on fundamental learning, governance, and school preparedness for children with disabilities and underprivileged backgrounds, Malawi has made notable strides toward inclusive education reforms (GPE 2024). Adopted by 40 schools, DIWA's Disability-Inclusive Education Practical Source Book offers instructional standards for various impairment groups, emphasising the importance of teamwork and focused treatments. Zimbabwe incorporates disability markers into budget cycles to track spending on disability-specific projects, guaranteeing accessible services and programs. CRPD-compliant budgeting processes encourage disability inclusion in Africa. With an emphasis on health and education, UNICEF's Disability Inclusive Budgeting framework encourages nondiscrimination, accessibility, and disability participation in budget planning while proving that inclusive financial management can close implementation gaps and fulfil policy objectives.

Gaps in Literature

There is little research on how the CRPD and SDGs will affect rural Africa locally, and programs centred on cities sometimes overlook the difficulties encountered by people with disabilities (Grech et al. 2023). Understudied is the relationship between post-COVID recovery, conflict, climate change, and disability inclusion. Vulnerability is increased by climate change, and wars marginalise disabled people. Disability inclusion is no longer given priority in post-COVID recovery efforts, underscoring the necessity of intersectional analysis (CBM 2023). Despite the requirement for independent methods in Article 33 of the CRPD, national-level monitoring frameworks for disability inclusion in African nations are disjointed and inadequate. Effective monitoring and accountability systems are hampered by the absence of standardised indicators and trustworthy data (NCPD 2023).

Methodology

Using a comparative case study approach and secondary qualitative analysis, this study evaluated the CRPD-SDG alignment in selected countries, including Malawi, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. In order to find trends, gaps, and best practices in disability inclusion, the strategy combined data from academic literature, policy papers, and organisational reports (Grech et al. 2023). The comparative framework made cross-country analysis of systemic facilitators and barriers possible, which ensured context-specific insights while retaining regional relevance. National disability policies, CRPD implementation reports (2015–2025), and SDG development indicators were among the policy and report analyses used as data sources. These were examined to determine their conformity with global guidelines (UNICEF 2022). To review the viewpoints of several Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) in the three nations, I conducted a qualitative analysis by systematically collecting, comparing, and synthesising

official statements, reports, and advocacy materials from representative DPOs in each country to identify common themes and distinct national perspectives. These revelations put policy implementation gaps into perspective and brought attention to issues at the local level, like little involvement in budgeting procedures. Data were categorised using thematic analysis into funding, governance, and intersectional exclusion themes. Coding and cross-referencing qualitative data with CRPD-SDG indicators were made easier with NVivo software.

Findings and Discussions

Policy Gaps

Disability-Inclusive Programs in Education (SDG 4)

In line with SDG 4, disability-inclusive education initiatives have been implemented in Malawi, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe's Inclusive Education Policy focuses on resource centres, accessible infrastructure, and teacher training. White Paper 6 on Special Needs in South Africa improves school infrastructure. At the same time, Malawi's Inclusive Education Project tackles obstacles to access and retention for children with impairments, and education enhances school infrastructure. Improved data accuracy on disability prevalence has been made possible by initiatives like DIWA's pilot, which has improved resource allocation and allowed more focused treatments.

Disability-Inclusive Programs in Poverty Reduction (SDG 1)

Initiatives to reduce poverty for people with disabilities have been successfully implemented in Malawi, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. While South Africa's National Development Strategy (NDS) strongly emphasises fair access to social services and economic opportunities, Zimbabwe's NDS 1 incorporates disability-inclusive social protection programs. Community-based rehabilitation projects in Malawi give people with disabilities economic empowerment by offering microfinance and vocational training. Disability inclusion is prioritised in national poverty reduction plans through civil society lobbying.

Role of DPOs in Advocating for Inclusive Policies

At the local level, Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs) are crucial in promoting inclusive policy. They impact legislative changes and increase awareness of disability rights in Zimbabwe. They work with government organisations in Malawi to implement early detection and intervention initiatives, resulting in policy modifications. DPOs in South Africa monitor laws that accommodate people with disabilities and push for teacher preparation and school facilities advancements. Their advocacy promotes disability inclusion by the SDG objectives and the CRPD principles.

Lack of Disability-Disaggregated Data

The integration of CRPD principles into SDG frameworks is hampered by the absence of reliable, disaggregated data on people with disabilities in African nations. Inconsistent statistics from this lack of standardised procedures impede evidence-based policymaking and sustain marginalisation in social services, employment, and education.

Inadequate Funding

Disability inclusion is hampered by inadequate and irregular funding, which is frequently combined with vulnerability in other groups. This problem was made worse by post-COVID-19 recovery attempts, with Zimbabwe giving priority to segregated institutions over inclusive services and Kenya cutting disability funding by 72.7%.

Geopolitical Strains and Climate Change

People with disabilities are more likely to experience violence, displacement, and exclusion from humanitarian relief in conflict-affected areas like the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While the DRC is a prominent example due to the severity of its conflict and humanitarian crisis, people with disabilities in South Africa (RSA), Malawi, and Zimbabwe (ZIM) also face significant challenges, though the context differs:

These problems are made worse by climate change, extreme weather, poor governance, and disjointed cooperation.

Post-COVID-19 Recovery Challenges

The pandemic revealed disparities in Africa, including the failure to address digital accessibility in post-recovery plans, such as telehealth expansions in South Africa, and the exclusion of disabled people from COVID-19 response planning.

Systemic Cycles of Exclusion

Insufficient data results in inadequate financing, policies, and the marginalisation of people with disabilities. Collaboration, disability-disaggregated data systems, and specialised funding are necessary to address these problems.

Intersectoral Collaboration as a Catalyst for Systemic Change

Intersectoral collaboration is essential to remove structural obstacles like discriminatory attitudes and inaccessible infrastructure. Coordination between the health, civil society, and law enforcement sectors was key to Thailand's success in health governance for people with disabilities. On the other hand, inclusive

"Aligning CRPD principles with SDG implementation can turn systemic barriers into opportunities for meaningful disability inclusion across Africa."

education for children with disabilities is hampered in South Africa by inadequate interdepartmental collaboration. Thailand is referenced as an illustrative example of effective intersectoral collaboration in disability governance, even when the primary focus is on South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Malawi. Its inclusion serves a comparative and instructional purpose, highlighting a model of best practice that contrasts with challenges faced in the southern African case studies.

Structured Coordination Mechanisms Enhance Accountability

Through resource sharing, referral channels, accountability, duplication reduction, mapping barriers, and prioritising disability inclusion, UNICEF's Disability Working Groups (DWGs) improve intersectoral planning in humanitarian circumstances.

Aligning Policies with Grassroots Realities

Teachers, parents, and community leaders have worked together on Malawi's Inclusive Education Project, which has effectively overcome top-down approaches to address sociocultural challenges and stigma against children with disabilities in rural areas.

Addressing Attitudinal Barriers Through Awareness

According to the IASC Guidelines Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, community-based rehabilitation programs in Zambia can help overcome social barriers, including stigma and paternalism, which will lessen prejudice and empower people with disabilities.

Harmonising Data Systems for Targeted Action

The Short Set of the Washington Group Questions in Malawi, increased the accuracy of disability-disaggregated data, allowing for more focused resource allocation. Intersectional policies are informed, and consistency is ensured by harmonising data tools across sectors. In order to ensure that people with disabilities are included in development and humanitarian activities, intersectoral collaboration combines disparate efforts into coherent solutions. It calls for coordinated disaster management, social protection, health, and education efforts.

Opportunities for Improvement

Governments should formalise relationships, provide venues for consultation and collaboration, and promote inclusive and transparent participatory frameworks to increase the involvement of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) in CRPD-SDG alignment. Initiatives to increase capacity, such as the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training program, can enable DPOs to monitor CRPD compliance and impact public policies. The financial viability of DPOs can be guaranteed by extending these programs throughout Africa and offering independent finance. Holding governments responsible for their pledges under the CRPD and SDGs should be the primary goal of advocacy campaigns. Advocacy based on data can draw attention to gaps in policy and encourage focused actions. Cooperative advocacy and partnerships with DPOs, human rights organisations, and civil society organisations can raise government pressure. Transparency and inclusive budgeting practices can be promoted by including accountability mechanisms in national development plans and implementing unambiguous metrics for tracking disability inclusion. A more inclusive atmosphere for people with disabilities can be achieved by bolstering participatory frameworks and implementing strong advocacy tactics.

Policy Recommendations

To allocate funds for disability inclusion, governments should implement budgeting systems that comply with the CRPD. This includes performance metrics and ring-fenced funding for programs tailored to the needs of people with disabilities. In addition, governments should invest more in assistive technologies and accessible infrastructure to satisfy CRPD requirements. To find and fix obstacles that people with disabilities encounter in healthcare, labour, and education, disability-disaggregated data should be incorporated into national SDG monitoring frameworks. Create centralised disability databases to compile data from administrative records, household surveys, and censuses. To improve governance capacity for disability inclusion, receive specific training on CRPD principles and how to use them within SDG frameworks – bolster DPOs'

organisational ability to impact national development objectives significantly. People with disabilities can fully participate in national development initiatives in a more inclusive society thanks to these guidelines.

Conclusion

The study draws attention to the ongoing obstacles to disability inclusion in Africa, such as disjointed governance, insufficient finance, and a dearth of data that breaks down disabilities. Notwithstanding this, effective initiatives such as Malawi's inclusive education reforms, Kenya's Vision 2030, and Zimbabwe's campaigning show how CRPD principles can be aligned. Governments should prioritise CRPD-compliant budgeting, implement disability-specific laws, and incorporate data into SDG monitoring frameworks to advance disability inclusion in Africa. Development organisations should provide funding for resilience initiatives and accessible infrastructure. DPOs, in particular, should lead grassroots campaigning and guarantee inclusive governance on behalf of civil society. Addressing systemic injustices, strengthening DPO-led solutions, and integrating inclusion into development are essential.

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Dieser Artikel untersucht, wie die Ziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung (SDGs) und die Konvention über die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen (UN-BRK) zusammenwirken, um die Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen in Afrika zu fördern. Die Studie stützt sich auf eine sekundäre qualitative Analyse von Strategiepapieren und Fallstudien, um vielversprechende Strategien zu identifizieren, darunter inklusive Advocacy-Kampagnen und Maßnahmen zum Kapazitätsaufbau. Sie macht auf die Schwierigkeiten aufmerksam, die bei der Koordinierung politischer Rahmenbedingungen mit der Umsetzung an der Basis bestehen, darunter mangelnde Ressourcen, Defizite in der Regierungsführung und soziokulturelle Hürden. Die Empfehlungen konzentrieren sich auf die Stärkung der gesetzlichen Rahmenbedingungen, die Bereitstellung von Finanzmitteln für die Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen und die Förderung der Zusammenarbeit mit Organisationen, die Menschen mit Behinderungen vertreten (OPDs). Der Artikel betont, wie wichtig es ist, die Ideen der UN-BRK in die SDG-Pläne einzubeziehen, um eine nachhaltige Entwicklung zu erreichen.

Résumé

Cet article examine comment les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) et la Convention relative aux droits des personnes handicapées (CDPH) s'articulent pour promouvoir l'inclusion des personnes handicapées à travers l'Afrique. L'étude utilise une analyse qualitative secondaire de documents politiques et d'études de cas afin d'identifier des stratégies prometteuses, notamment des campagnes de sensibilisation inclusives et des activités de renforcement des capacités. Elle attire l'attention sur les difficultés, telles que le manque de ressources, les lacunes en matière de gouvernance et les obstacles socioculturels, qui entravent la coordination des cadres politiques avec la mise en œuvre sur le terrain. Les recommandations mettent l'accent sur le renforcement des cadres législatifs, le financement de l'inclusion des personnes handicapées et l'encouragement de la coopération avec les organisations représentant les personnes handicapées (OPD). Le document souligne l'importance d'inclure les idées de la CDPH dans les plans des ODD afin de parvenir à un développement durable.

Resumen

Este artículo examina cómo los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) y la Convención sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad (CDPD) se conectan para promover la inclusión de las personas con discapacidad en toda África. El estudio utiliza un análisis cualitativo secundario de documentos de política y estudios de casos para identificar estrategias prometedoras, incluidas campañas de promoción inclusivas y actividades de creación de capacidad. Llama la atención sobre las dificultades, como la falta de recursos, las deficiencias de gobernanza y los obstáculos socioculturales, para coordinar los marcos políticos con la aplicación a nivel de base. Las recomendaciones se centran en reforzar los marcos legislativos, proporcionar financiación para la inclusión de las personas con discapacidad y fomentar la cooperación con las organizaciones que representan a las personas con discapacidad (OPD). El documento destaca la importancia de incluir las ideas de la CDPD en los planes de los ODS para lograr el desarrollo sostenible.

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Financing Disability Inclusion at Scale: Mauritania's First National Disability Strategy, Budget Earmarking and Target

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This paper showcases the recent policy developments to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in Mauritania, through the development and adoption of the country's first-ever national disability strategy and costed plan. It delineates the participatory, multistakeholder process and related analyses that led the government to make an ambitious commitment to step up from marginal disability-related public spending to allocate 1.5 % of budget expenditure to disability inclusion by 2030. It aims to make a contribution on the importance of costing at scale national disability inclusion action and whole of government financing commitments.

Introduction

While inclusion is a fundamental right and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) has been a pivotal catalyst for change globally, progress has been uneven among and within countries. Legal and policy change have not always been followed by implementation, as disability-related public spending remains marginal, especially in low- and middle-income countries (Cote, A.; Banks, M-L. 2025) . With a disability law that predates the ratification of the CRPD and a national disability strategy that was drafted but never adopted, Mauritania was lagging with regards to its disability legal and policy framework (FEMANPH 2023). In 2024, under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Action, Childhood and Family (Ministère de l'Action Sociale, de l'Enfance et de la Famille, MASEF), and with technical assistance from UNICEF, the government of Mauritania took rapid and significant steps to develop its first national disability strategy, coupled with a corresponding costed plan to support its implementation.

Taking stock of the low prioritization and public spending on disability compared with the needs of an estimated 507,967 persons with disabilities, the government of Mauritania made an ambitious commitment to allocate 1.5 % of its budget expenditure to disability inclusion by 2030 or a tenfold increase (Joint Statement by the Minister of Social Action, Children and Family and the Minister of Economy and Finance 2025), a pledge publicized at the third Global Disability Summit in April 2025. The country is now better equipped to leapfrog its national efforts to advance the rights of persons with disabilities and, as a signatory to the Amman-Berlin Declaration on Global Disability Inclusion, calls on international cooperation partners to ensure that at least 15 % of Official Development Assistance (ODA) funded projects in Mauritania support disability inclusion to complement national budget efforts.

This paper examines Mauritania's recent disability policy advancements, informed by the 2023 CRPD Concluding Observations, civil society engagement, and ongoing reforms. It delineates the process that led to the adoption of the country's first national disability strategy (part 1) and its costing analysis, enabling an ambitious budget earmarking target (Part 2). It reflects on limitations and necessary steps to translate policy into tangible impact for persons with disabilities.

Against a challenging global background characterized by mounting pressure against human rights and austerity measures reshaping economies worldwide, this paper aims to contribute to better understanding the importance of costing at scale national disability inclusion action and the feasibility of whole-of-government financing commitments.

The Process Towards Mauritania's First National Disability Strategy

Situation of Persons With Disabilities and National Efforts in Mauritania

As per the latest census of 2023, 507,967 persons with disabilities live in Mauritania, representing 10.31 % of the population (National Census 2023). While data and statistics are largely insufficient to fully understand and appreciate the levels of discrimination experienced by persons with disabilities in the country, available evidence suggests that there are significant discrepancies across all areas of life. Persons with disabilities are more affected by extreme poverty, have less access to both general health services and disability-related health services (such as functional rehabilitation), have lower access to education and employment, and more often so in segregated settings such as special schools and sheltered workshops. They also have limited access to general social benefits available for most vulnerable groups, and to disability-specific support and services that are preconditions for their participation, including disability-related benefits, assistive technology, human assistance or accessible transportation. Stigma and negative perceptions result in exclusion and marginalization, and in persons with disabilities being subject to frequent exploitation, violence and abuse, such as forced begging (CRPD Committee 2023).

Mauritania ratified the CRPD and its Optional Protocol in 2012, submitted its initial report in 2017 and was reviewed by the CRPD Committee in 2023. While the national Constitution enshrines equality of all citizens, disability-based discrimination is not explicitly prohibited. The main legal framework protecting the rights of persons with disabilities is the 2006 Ordinance relating to the promotion and protection of persons with disabilities, which predates the ratification of the CRPD and is not fully grounded in a rights-based approach. While the 2006 Ordinance and associated decrees enabled significant progress in some areas (employment quota, cash transfer programme for households of children with multiple disabilities, establishment of a disability card), substantial discrepancies persist between legal provisions and their effective enforcement. Furthermore, the existing legal framework does not fully encompass the spectrum of rights articulated in the CRPD, and current measures benefit only a restricted segment of the population with disabilities. Multisectoral and sectoral policies and programmes, such as the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity, the National Programme for the Development of the Education System or the National Plan for Health Development, marginally refer to disability, hindering equal outcomes for persons with disabilities.

Against this backdrop, recent initiatives to enhance disability data collection warrant attention, notably the incorporation of the Washington Group short set of questions within the survey instruments of the 2023 national census and the Social Registry. These represent significant milestones in fostering a more comprehensive understanding of the situation of persons with disabilities in Mauritania. Concurrently, an elevated national priority accorded to the development of social protection strategies has amplified attention towards persons with disabilities as a demographic group particularly vulnerable to discrimination and exclusion. Furthermore, the ongoing transition of Mauritania's public finances towards a programme-based budget structure proved conducive to the financial costing of the National Disability Strategy.

A Rapid, Multistakeholder, Participatory Process, Leading to a Rights-Based, Multisectoral National Disability Strategy

The development and adoption of the first national disability strategy in Mauritania was prioritized by the government in the context of social protection reforms, as it became clear that social protection would also best benefit persons with disabilities if accompanied by a strong, rights-based disability policy framework. Drawing from the 2023 CRPD Concluding Observations to the government, the country committed to review and update a preexisting draft of a national disability strategy that had never been adopted.

Initiated with clear leadership from the government, the process for the development of the Strategy and its costed plan was co-developed by the MASEF, key relevant ministries and the National Federation of Associations of People with Disabilities (Fédération Mauritanienne des Associations Nationales de Personnes Handicapées, FEMANPH) with the technical support from UNICEF and the financial support of KfW development bank. A roadmap was discussed and validated by the National Multisectoral Council for the Promotion of Persons with Disabilities

„Taking stock of the low prioritization and public spending on disability compared with the needs of an estimated 507,967 persons with disabilities, the government of Mauritania made an ambitious commitment to allocate 1.5 % of its budget expenditure to disability inclusion by 2030 or a tenfold increase."

(Conseil National Multi-sectoriel pour la Promotion des Personnes Handicapées, CNMPPH) in July 2024, with the ambition to adopt the Strategy by December 2024. An initial context analysis was conducted, based on a desk review of existing national policies, strategies, programmes, as well as available data and statistics, in each of the sectors or thematic areas prioritized with the government. This was included into thematic orientation papers, discussed and enriched during 8 thematic workshops involving representatives from Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), concerned ministries and financial and technical partners in October 2024. A national multistakeholder workshop was organized in November 2024 to review outputs from the thematic workshops, confirm strategic orientations and ensure a technical validation of the Strategy, including the key parameters to be used for the costed plan (Global Disability Inclusion Report, 2025, p. 262; see also part 2). Eventually, this led to the timely adoption of the Strategy by the Council of Ministers in December 2024.

The document, entitled "National Strategy for the Inclusion and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities", is grounded in a human rights-based approach and responds to the recommendations formulated by the CRPD Committee in its 2023 Concluding Observations to the government of Mauritania. In a country where more than 70 % of the Mauritanian population is under 35 years old, the document pays particular attention to children and young people with disabilities, to ensure that their inclusion and participation prepares for a more inclusive society of tomorrow.

The Strategy is also designed as a tool to strengthen the coherence of inclusive public policies (Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity /Stratégie de Croissance Accélérée et de Prospérité Partagée, SCAPP) and supports the achievement of broader commitments, policies and agendas to which Mauritania has adhered, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An essential transformation brought by the Strategy was the need to shift from disability being perceived as the unique responsibility of the MASEF as the nodal ministry, to building responsibility across sectors. In this regard, 17 ministries and governmental agencies were involved throughout the process, which built initial ownership and facilitated its endorsement as a cross-sectoral strategy by the Council of Ministers.

Several enablers supported swift progress towards the adoption of the Strategy. Initial data from the census showed a prevalence of 10.31 % of the total population, compared with the estimated 0.93 % of the 2013 census. This clearly played a role in strengthening the rationale for its endorsement by the Council of Ministers. Persons with disabilities and OPDs actively engaged at all steps, informing the process from their lived experiences as well as their advocacy priorities. In partnership with the International Disability Alliance (IDA), peer OPD support was organized to prepare contributions into the process and, most importantly, future engagement to rally wide support for the enforcement of the Strategy.

The rapid, six-month development and approval of the Strategy, while ensuring focused engagement, limited broader stakeholder consultations, particularly with regional and marginalized groups of persons with disabilities (including women, youth, persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities or persons with deafblindness). Insufficient engagement of technical and financial partners resulted in reduced awareness and ownership, which may affect future contributions. While strong governmental leadership (MASEF) facilitated political commitment through this condensed process, intensified stakeholder engagement will be crucial for effective implementation.

Securing National Budget Commitments on Disability Inclusion

Costing the National Disability Strategy

Initial steps in adopting the Strategy focused on strategic orientations and priorities, but financial resources were considered from the start. Participants

to the thematic workshops preliminarily costed their proposed orientations. A budget analysis (2021-2024 Finance Laws) provided a picture of the past years' levels of disability budget expenditure, as a point of comparison for the projected annual resources necessary to operationalize the Strategy.

The budget analysis shows a slow but steady evolution of public expenditure dedicated to disability between 2021 and 2024, from 0.10 % of budget expenditure in 2021 to 0.14 % in 2024 (*see table 1-a below*). In 2024, this represents a total amount of 136,269,081 MRU or less than 0.03 % of the GDP. While the level of disability-specific expenditures remains too low to allow support for disability inclusion across sectors and at scale, it is comparable with other low- and middle-income countries such as Cambodia, Malawi, or India which spend between 0.02 % and 0.04 % of GDP. Countries that have more developed and at scale support measures for persons with disabilities spend at least 0.1 % of GDP, such as Zambia, Thailand, Fiji or Namibia (Cote, A.; Banks, M-L. 2025).

Disability-related budget is mostly concentrated exclusively under two ministries, the MASEF (70 % of the total expenses identified) and the Ministry of Health (30 %), with MASEF covering measures in multiple sectors. As an example, budgets supporting education for learners with disabilities are found under the MASEF rather than the Ministry of Education. Such concentration may disincentivize relevant line ministries from financing inclusion in their own sector and limit MASEF's capacity to invest in key areas like disability support services and social protection.

Complementary information on each programme from the review of national policies and programmes suggests that a significant share of disability related expenditure supports interventions that only partially support or in some case may not be aligned with CRPD provisions, such as segregated special education or employment programs. Consequently, opportunities exist to strategically re-orient some of the existing expenditures towards programs effectively promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities.

Acknowledging the gap between the current budget allocation for disability inclusion and the ambition of the strategy, participants endorsed the principle of a progressive but significant increase in government funding. They affirmed the need for each ministry and decentralized authority to contribute to this effort, with a target percentage of annual expenses of each ministry still to be determined. Accordingly, the parameters for financing the Strategy were validated and integrated into the strategy document itself.

The subsequent costing exercise carried out by high level planning personnel of all relevant ministries during a dedicated workshop resulted in an estimated total cost of 10,292,415,000 MRU for the period 2025-2030 (6 years). The targeted budget for 2030 represents a significant increase from the initial 0.14 % of budget expenditure (or 0.03 % of GDP) in 2024 to 1.97 % of budget expenditure (or 0.34 % of GDP) by 2030. The breakdown of expenditure by sector also reflects a significant evolution of the structure of costs, with a projected shift for social protection from 21.3

	Finance Law of 2024 (a)			Annual expenditure projected in 2030 (b)		
Strategic priority areas of Mauritania's national disability strategy	Amounts allocated to disability (MRU)	Share of total disability expenditure	Share of the 2024 GDP	Amounts allocated to disability (MRU)	Share of total disability expenditure	Share of the 2024 GDP
Equality and Non-Discrimination	8 437 550	6,2%	0,001%	1 430 000	0,1%	0,000%
Accessibility	-	0,0%	0,000%	326 300 000	12,8%	0,043%
Political Participation	9 075 000	6,7%	0,002%	16 270 000	0,6%	0,002%
Access to Social Protection, Humanitarian Aid and Support Services	29 000 000	21,3%	0,005%	1 931 980 000	75,8%	0,257%
Education and Vocational Training	28 559 937	21,0%	0,005%	36 100 000	1,4%	0,005%
Employment and Youth	20 000 000	14,7%	0,004%	29 600 000	1,2%	0,004%
Health and Nutrition	41 157 594	30,2%	0,007%	192 746 250	7,6%	0,026%
Protection against Violence and Access to Justice	-	0,0%	0,000%	8 491 750	0,3%	0,001%
Sports Culture and Leisure	-	0,0%	0,000%	5 750 000	0,2%	0,001%
Total	**136 230 081**	**100,0%**	**0,024%**	**2 548 668 000**	**100,0%**	**0,339%**

Table 1: Compared distribution of disability expenditure, (a) Finance Law of 2024 and (b) Annual Expenditure projected for 2030 (as per the Strategy)

% of disability related expenses in 2024 to 75.8 % by 2030, detailed in table 1 above.

ODA Role in Financing the National Disability Strategy

Discussions on possible financing scenarios recalled the obligation of the State to mobilize the maximum of its available resources (CRPD Article 4.2) and simultaneously acknowledged that public resources only cannot cover the entire cost of all expenses necessary to support inclusion. Based on the parameters presented above, a proposal was formulated to mobilize all ministries to progressively increase and reach a target of 1.5 % of budget expenditure dedicated to disability inclusion by 2030, with the adoption of a disability marker for budget tracking. This target represents a government effort to finance 76 % of the cost of the Strategy by 2030 and leapfrogging with a tenfold increase in resources allocated to disability inclusion. This scenario also implies securing complementary resources (24 %) from the private sector and especially from international cooperation.

To benchmark existent external donor contributions and ascertain the potential for augmented financial inflows, a complementary analysis of ODA trends in Mauritania was undertaken.

This analysis draws on data documenting the use of the OECD disability marker, launched by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)[1] in 2018 for the purpose of measuring the extent to which ODA activities address disability inclusion. The marker includes three scores, with 2 indicating where a project has disability inclusion as a principal objective, 1 where disability inclusion is a significant objective and 0 where disability inclusion is not targeted (Meeks, 2020; OECD, 2020). The latest data available is for 2023.

The analysis found that a majority of ODA activities in Mauritania are not scored by the disability marker. Out of 680 ODA activities[2] in 2023, only 259 (38 %) were scored, meaning that 62 % were not scored. This is in line with the average across recipient countries in the OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS) database (averaging 39 %). It should also be noted that most of the major donors in Mauritania do not use the marker, but Germany started in 2024, which will impact the data for Mauritania among other countries.

The analysis of ODA trends also shows that less than 2 % of ODA in Mauritania is scored as targeting disability inclusion. The share of allocable ODA targeting disability inclusion (score 1 or 2) is 1.6 % both when measuring the number of activities and the USD values. Notably, there were no activities scored as having disability inclusion as a principal objective, thus this figure only relates to score 1 activities (significant objective).

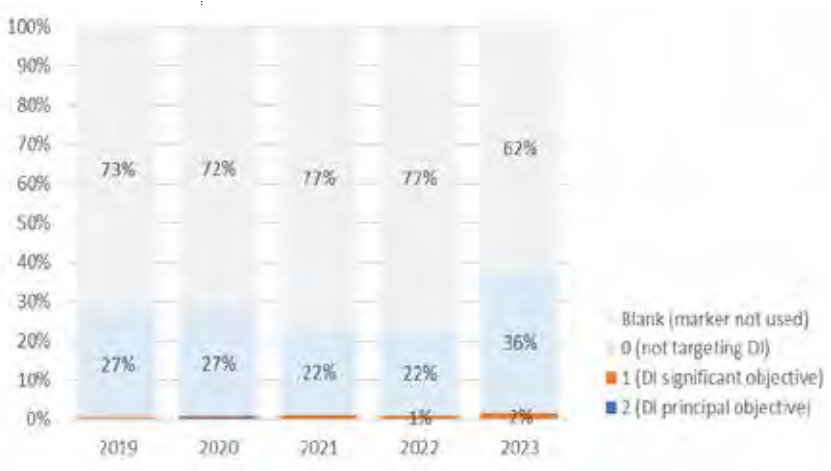

Figure 1: Allocable ODA activities by disability marker score, Mauritania, 2019-2023[1 2]
Source: Authors' calculations based on OECD CRS database

While caution is required in interpreting the data from ODA, the picture shows a relatively low commitment on disability inclusion of Mauritania's international cooperation partners (as a comparison, with only 23 % of projects tagged, 6 % of ODA flows to Sierra Leone have disability inclusion as a significant objective). This means both significant room for progress but also more intense advocacy required to secure greater engagement and a direct contribution to resourcing the Strategy.

Conclusion

Mauritania's adoption of its first costed national disability strategy marks a major step forward in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. Anchored in a human rights-based approach and aligned with the CRPD, the strategy sets an ambitious financing target – 1.5 % of national budget expenditure by 2030, a tenfold increase from current levels. This commitment made ahead of the 2025 Global Disability Summit signals a shift from fragmented efforts to a more structured and sustainable investment in inclusion.

The participatory development of the costed action plan shows that a genuine whole-of-government approach is essential, through a process including high level planning officials across all relevant ministries and levels of government. This increases the

likelihood of disability inclusion becoming a shared responsibility across sectors such as education, health, and infrastructure, supported by dedicated resources and inclusive planning. The process also showed the importance of program-based budgeting, which, recently adopted in Mauritania, supported the process.

Mauritania's experience demonstrates that costing and planning financing of disability inclusion at scale is not only feasible but essential for translating commitments into measurable outcomes. Sustaining momentum will require strong institutional ownership, cross-sectoral coordination, and the active involvement of persons with disabilities. The government's call for increased support from international partners, in line with the Amman-Berlin Declaration, also highlights the critical role of ODA in leveraging and complementing domestic resource mobilization to make disability inclusion a reality.

NOTES

1 The development assistance committee consists of a set of bilateral donors (mainly OECD countries), plus the European Union.

2 For the purpose of this analysis, an ODA activity is a single instance of an ODA commitment. ODA commitments may relate to a project, or a subcomponent of a project.

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Dieser Artikel stellt die jüngsten politischen Entwicklungen zur Förderung der Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen in Mauretanien vor, die durch die Entwicklung und Verabschiedung der ersten

nationalen Strategie für Menschen mit Behinderungen und eines entsprechenden Kostenplans erreicht wurden. Es beschreibt den partizipativen Prozess unter Einbeziehung verschiedener Interessengruppen und die damit verbundenen Analysen, die die Regierung dazu veranlasst haben, eine ehrgeizige Verpflichtung einzugehen, die öffentlichen Ausgaben für Angelegenheiten von Menschen mit Behinderungen von einem marginalen Niveau auf 1,5 % der Haushaltsausgaben bis 2030 anzuheben. Ziel ist es, einen Beitrag zur Bedeutung der Kostenkalkulation für nationale Maßnahmen zur Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen und für die Finanzierungszusagen der gesamten Regierung zu leisten.

RÉSUMÉ

Cet article présente les récentes évolutions politiques visant à promouvoir les droits des personnes handicapées en Mauritanie, à travers l'élaboration et l'adoption de la toute première stratégie nationale en faveur des personnes handicapées et d'un plan chiffré. Il décrit le processus participatif multipartite et les analyses connexes qui ont conduit le gouvernement à prendre l'engagement ambitieux de passer de dépenses publiques marginales liées au handicap à l'affectation de 1,5 % des dépenses budgétaires à l'inclusion des personnes handicapées d'ici 2030. Il vise à mettre en évidence l'importance de l'évaluation des coûts à l'échelle nationale des mesures d'inclusion des personnes handicapées et des engagements financiers de l'ensemble du gouvernement.

RESUMEN

Este documento presenta las recientes medidas políticas adoptadas para promover los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en Mauritania, mediante la elaboración y adopción de la primera estrategia nacional sobre discapacidad y el primer plan presupuestario del país. Describe el proceso participativo y multilateral, así como los análisis relacionados, que llevaron al Gobierno a asumir el ambicioso compromiso de aumentar el gasto público marginal relacionado con la discapacidad y destinar el 1,5 % del gasto presupuestario a la inclusión de las personas con discapacidad para 2030. Su objetivo es contribuir a la importancia de calcular los costes a gran escala de las medidas nacionales de inclusión de las personas con discapacidad y los compromisos de financiación de todo el Gobierno.

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Human Agency and Livelihoods Initiatives of Persons With Disabilities in Zimbabwe

Edmos Mtetwa

The participation of persons with disabilities in the economic life of any society remains a vital aspect of their citizenship. This is particularly so in environments where disability is viewed as more of economic and social burden, particularly in countries of the Global South such as Zimbabwe. It is in that context that this paper explores the sense of agency exhibited by persons with disabilities to fend for themselves by partaking in diverse economic activities on an equal basis with others in their communities. Using a qualitative research approach, the paper benefited from in-depth interviews conducted by the author with six persons with albinism and visual impairments, respectively. Data collected revealed that persons with disabilities were active economic agents, making a living out of a number of business ventures. These included among others street vending, cross-boarder trading as well as formal employment. The paper laments lack of support from government that tended to constrain the potential of persons with disabilities for self-help. The paper ends by observing that given financial backing from government, persons with disabilities possess vast economic potential that society could leverage upon to create positive change.

Introduction

This paper contends that persons with disabilities are not bystanders in the midst of economic adversity. Rather, they are active agents who embark on various self-sustaining business ventures to keep themselves afloat. As per the discussion that follows, they strive to get a niche in both formal and informal economic activities. The paper steadily switches the discussion towards what persons with disabilities, as active agents of their lives, actually do for a living.

From the onset, it is worth noting that barrier removal and bodily limitations on public participation have been the two poles between which the disability discourse has primarily shuttled right from the inauguration of what has come to be popularly known as the social model of disability in the 1970s (Mitchell and Snyder 2015: 1). Arguably, the former (barrier removal) has claimed the lion's share of the field's attention, while the latter (impairment effects) has continued to evolve as a key component of scholarship on disability embodiment (ibid).

Under the influence of the former, this paper contends that persons with disabilities are not passive patients of charitable social welfare institutions, but are active subjects of their own lives. Needless to emphasise, for centuries, persons with disabilities have been an oppressed and repressed group. They have been isolated, incarcerated, observed, written about, operated on, instructed, implanted, regulated, treated, institutionalized, and controlled to a degree probably unequal to that experienced by any other minority group (Davis 2006: 1).

The paper proceeds to chronicle a number of survival strategies employed by persons with disabilities in the midst of an ever-shrinking space for economic empowerment endemic within the ablest society. These survival strategies included, among others, street vending, buying and selling, running grocery shops and at times begging.

Theoretical Framework

This paper examines the participation of persons with disabilities in the economic life of society using the human

agency theory. For this paper, human agency refers to the inner drive for all human beings to actively pursue what they deem important and expedient in life. Human agency is therefore just but a fraction of what has come to be referred to as active citizenship (Halvorsen et al. 2017). Being an active citizen involves exercising social rights and duties, enjoying choice and autonomy, and participating in economic, social and political decision-making processes which are of importance to one's life (Halvorsen et al. 2017). Needless to emphasise, agency has been understood by a number of scholars to imply the exercise of human reflexivity, and of conscious decision making about the actions of concerned individuals. Yet, other more determinist scholars perceive it as flowing unthinkingly from sets of dispositions that are acquired, equally unthinkingly, from our social context (Archer 2000). In confronting their environment, persons with disabilities feel a continuous sense of the self who does so, for they cannot live out their dissolution; they have cares, concerns and commitments which they see as part of themselves, for they cannot accept the 'identity' of demolished men and women (ibid.). Furthermore, they have social positions, which most of them would like to rectify, in at least some respect, and are unconvinced that social improvements merely depend upon discursive changes (ibid.:2). As active agents, persons with disabilities demonstrate a positive sense of agency by partaking in a number of entrepreneurial ventures in order to ward off the scourge of poverty and perennial dependency that has tended to characterise disability in society.

Methodology

This paper is a result of a qualitative exploration of the extent to which persons with disabilities partake in a number of available economic opportunities. The paper benefited from six participants with visual impairment and albinism domiciled in Harare. Narrative inquiry was the dominant method utilised, with participants' narratives forming the bulk of findings for the study (Willis 2007). In keeping with the qualitative research approach, findings were presented in the form of narratives from individual participants before a discussion of the same was occasioned (Riessman 2008). Participants' narratives were augmented by two key informant interviews from an academic with a visual impairment as well as from one representative of an organisation of persons with disabilities. More so, these narratives were corroborated by a documentary search of the general theoretical and empirical evidence on human agency theory, disability literature as well as available research methods knowledge and skills.

In conformity with the ethical principles of confidentiality and anonymity, the paper used pseudonyms in the form of codes instead of names of participants. For example, Alm1 was used to refer to a male participant with albinism whereas Alf1 would refer to a female participant with albinism. Similarly, Vim1 refers to a male participant with visual impairment whilst Vif1 also refers to the first female participant with visual impairment.

Presentation of Findings

This section presents a number of economic activities within which persons with disabilities engage themselves for a living. These economic activities included among others running grocery shops, cross-boarder trading, street vending and formal employment.

Running Grocery Shops

As the narratives below reveal, persons with disabilities survived by striving towards entering the world of both formal and informal economic ventures. Running grocery shop was characteristic of the economic activity of such people as ALM2, who indicated that he operated a grocery shop in order to improve his standard of living. The same obtained for VIF3, who, in addition to being a teacher, operated a grocery shop to augment her meagre salary.

> "My salary is not enough. I run a grocery shop at my rural area with the assistance of my relatives. Even then, I am not satisfied with the profits since I do not have enough capital to inject into the business. I have heard about a loan scheme run by government through a certain bank but I did not even bother to borrow money given that the interests charged were too high considering my business potential" she remarked.

Unlike VIF3, VIF1 did not own any shop of her own. She, however, depended on buying and selling her products using any platform including other people's shops.

Although she had no specialized line of business, VIF1 testified that she actively participated in business activities, especially in the buying and selling of different commodities. Another interesting dimension to VIF1's business ventures was that she relied on information about business potential from within her community. As Coble (2011) observed, VIF1's business ventures were entirely dependent upon the availability of local information. As a teacher, her literacy gave her an age over other fellow persons with disabilities.

"[…] Persons with disabilities are not bystanders in the midst of economic adversity. Rather, they are active agents who embark on various self-sustaining business ventures to keep themselves afloat."

As per the testimony below, she follows local trends.

> "If people flock to South Africa, Tanzania, China or even to Zambia to buy commodities for sale back home I do so as well. If people go into banking, I follow suit. For instance, in 2008 during the height of Zimbabwe's economic woes, I would simply cross the border into Mozambique and buy groceries bring them to some few friends who had shops at our local shopping centre. This is how I survived the harsh economic conditions prevailing at that time. As we speak, the common business venture is that women are going to Tanzania to buy clothes. I also go there. On Friday I am going to China to procure medical equipment that is being used by many people to make money these days. "

Cross Border Trading

Cross boarder trading constituted yet another source of livelihood for Persons with disabilities. To this end, the interview conducted by the researcher with ALF2 revealed that ALF2 thrived on buying and selling commodities, especially clothes that she bought mainly from South Africa. Unlike her other colleagues, she heavily relied on complex social networks to sell her wares to the public. As such, she managed to initially create demand by advertising her supplies to vendors, employees of various agencies as well as residents of her neighbourhood. As a result, ALF2 even regarded cross boarder trading as too menial a job so much such that she was even ashamed of disclosing that vocation to the researcher.

Like ALF2, VIF1 also lamented lack of government support toward her zeal to embark on some productive business venture saying that this has reduced her business activities simply to buying and selling.

Like VIF1, VIF2 was anxiously waiting for a day when doors would be opened for people like her to gain access to loans mainly from government. She would like to venture into some small business; her income from work was rather inadequate for that. She however exhibited a positive business mind.

As a sign of hope, she thought that once she secured a loan from work as was promised, she definitely would embark on some business venture to cushion herself against the devastating effects of economic adversity.

Summarizing the plight of persons with disabilities when it comes to economic empowerment, VIF1 contended that the most desirable situation for any person with a disability, just like any serious business person was that one must claim ownership to a piece of land as a productive asset. "Any person needs her own mine or any tangible productive entity to stay afloat". She spoke. She indicated that as a gender and disability activist, she was saddened by the fact that women with disabilities were finding it hard to penetrate the world of business. "More so, persons with disabilities I have worked with are extremely poor that they even have got no access to a mere residential stand, let alone a house simply because they just do not have money", she remarked.

Street Vending

For those who found it difficult to embark on more advanced and somewhat formal business ventures like cross boarder trading or running grocery shops, street vending became another survival strategy. This should in no way be seen as an outright departure from the norm given that street vending has come to represent an important vocation for most citizens who, due to the prevailing economic environment, failed to gain a foothold within available formal employment opportunities. This was the case with persons with disabilities who, even if formally employed, engaged themselves in street vending in order to augment their incomes. Unlike VIM3 who used vending as a means to supplement his meagre monthly salary that he received as a high school teacher, ALM1 and ALM3 treated vending as the primary source of income. To this effect, ALM1 and ALM 3 emphasized that vending was their only source of livelihood. Their places of work were the streets of Harare. Their line of commodities was varied, largely affected by forces of supply and demand. Their tradable commodities were pirated DVDs, tomatoes, textbooks and stationery among others.

Both ALM1 and ALM3 complained that municipal police continually harassed them by confiscating their wares.

Even though vending was ordinarily consigned to those people not in formal employment, in a constrained economy like that of Zimbabwe however, it has become a source of livelihood even for those in formal employment whose incomes are not enough to sustain them. This finding is in consonance with a study conducted by Tamukamoyo (2009). Tamukamoyo found out that in Zimbabwe, vending had become an ingrained survival strategy in the middle of gross unemployment.

Formal Employment

In the majority of cases, productive work creates the means for being considered a viable and active part of the citizenry, whereas lack of productive work can lead to invisibility and irrelevance in society. To that end, most participants interviewed were in formal employment. The typical example was that of ALM1 who got a job as an occupational therapist at a local hospital. His source of living therefore was a salary from his job as an occupational therapist. The same applied to VIM2 who was a civil servant. His source of livelihood was largely a salary.

Similarly, VIF2's main source of income came from her job as a telephonist at a local bank.

Unlike VIF1, VIM1, though a teacher, did not stay at the school but owned a house.

> "I completed my degree in 1985 from the university. Thereafter, I was employed as a teacher, a position I hold till now. I cannot say I am very poor if I compare myself with my fellow disabled colleagues who live a life of street begging. I am fortunate in life given that I have a car."

Unlike VIF2 who worked for a local bank, VIF3 was a civil servant who survived mainly on her salary. For VIF5, the most reliable source of livelihood was a monthly income that she got from her employment as a civil servant. Like VIM1 above, she considered herself very lucky to have acquired some professional qualification. Comparing herself with other women with disabilities who were both unemployed and unmarried, she regarded her situation as rather fortunate. She narrated thus:

> "The only advantage with some of us is that we often get some income in the form of a salary. We are not like other colleagues who languish in poverty. Even though we are married, our spouses do respect us because of our income earning capacity. But the majority of our disabled colleagues do not participate in most economic activities as they live a life of begging".

Interestingly, she valued marriage so much as both a source of social status and a buffer against the vagaries of poverty and squalor endemic in the lives of women with disabilities. In addition, she derived satisfaction from the fact that her professional status and income earning capacity serve to elevate her to the level of an equal in marriage. On the contrary, VIF1 was a teacher at a local school. She, however, supplemented her meagre salary with some income generating projects (see testimonies on business ventures above). Unlike VIF5, VIF1 was single but was always complaining about constricted opportunities mainly caused by disability.

Just like VIF1, VIM3 was a teacher at a rural school. The researcher caught up with him at a local university where he had come to further his studies. During the course of the interview, he told the researcher that his main source of livelihood was a salary. He, however, supplemented his salary by engaging himself in informal trading. As a result, he boasted of having his own good rural home, livestock plus a car. In terms of poverty and deprivation, he considered himself fortunate.

Discussion

On the whole, the above narratives simply demonstrate the innate abilities in persons with disabilities to fend for themselves. Such innate entrepreneurial abilities within persons with disabilities persuaded one of the pioneer black philanthropists Jairos Jiri to believe that given the necessary skills and start-up capital, persons with disabilities were able to pull themselves out of poverty (Munsaka, 2012, emphasis by the author). In an interview with the Bantu Mirror, Mr. Jiri pointed out that: "if only they (disabled people) got something on which to make a start, they are prepared to help themselves" (The Bantu Mirror, 8 August, 1953, cited by Devlieger 1995:43). Once again, this corroborates the assertions made about disability by the proponents of the social model.

According to Davis (1995) disability just like ´normality´ is just a part of historically constructed ideological discourse. As such, argues Davis, normality and disability carry no biological meanings which can be fixed upon the body itself; instead, they attain meaning through a process in which bodily traits are interpreted as linguistic signifiers within certain ideological contexts.

Although Jairos Jiri's approach has been widely criticized by some within the disability fraternity as an epitome of the personal tragedy model of disability, (Devlieger 1995, Chataika 2007 and Munsaka 2012),

it is here contended that the nation cannot take away the emancipatory nature of his educational and vocational training ventures. As Munsaka would have it, the work of Jairos Jiri signalled the value of individual agency. This individual agency has seen persons with disabilities defying all odds to penetrate the crevices of the somewhat impervious iron curtains of political and economic institutions and environments and sometimes emerging victorious in the end. As the above findings revealed, Jairos Jiri's contribution to the struggle for self-reliance by persons with disabilities remains indelible on the national political and economic script of Zimbabwe.

More still, participants' narratives have tended to confirm the arguments often advanced by advocates of the social model of disability that dependency was not the result of functional limitations of persons with disabilities (Barton 1989).

For the current discussion, the above narratives draw on three major themes central to the analysis of the lives of persons with disabilities. These are social status, economic wellbeing as well as the comfort derived from having a job. When it comes to social status, VIF5 and VIM3 seem to quickly mention marriage, a comfortable family life and equality within that marriage. In addition, VIM 1, VIM3 and VIF1 considered themselves less poor in comparison to their fellow disabled counterparts. The ownership of a car and a home constituted symbol of a satisfying social status. Virtually all the above narratives point towards a better social status in comparison with other persons with disabilities. As a coping mechanism, most participants tended to emphasize those aspects of self that would essentially mimic perceived qualities of ableist personhood. These perceived qualities included economic independency expressed through gainful employment, ownership of symbols of higher status in society such as motor vehicles, the ability to participate in the informal economy just like others as well as societal acceptance as marriage partners. Arguably, all participants who prided themselves in having achieved "person first" status were not achieving full normative status but were only legitimizing an able-bodied resemblance through their desire for normality (Campbell 2009).

Conversely, the above state of affairs tends to reaffirm the vicious circle of poverty and disability (see Yeo 2005 for a comprehensive analysis of the nexus between poverty and disability). The above findings can, therefore, be viewed in the context that persons with disabilities in Zimbabwe were over-represented among the poorest people. They have been largely overlooked in the development discourse. They are already struggling with barriers in their communities that are not easily overcome when faced with a disability, thus conditions of poverty hit them doubly hard. There is scholarly consensus that even in countries where there are national poverty reduction strategies, these do not necessarily benefit people with disabilities (Eide and Ingstad 2011).

The capacity to liberate oneself against the scourge of poverty and vulnerability, particularly in the face of restricted economic opportunities remained paramount to the testimonies of all participants. Needless to emphasise, disability has therefore remained both the reason for and the consequence of poverty, with persons with disabilities usually lacking adequate schooling and access to employment opportunities in comparison to the rest of society. With reduced access to social protection coupled with their systematic exclusion from social processes, their risk of falling into poverty was increased. On the other hand, poor people are more likely to be affected by disability since they are often unable to feed themselves and their families properly, have to pay for treatment in the event of illness and protect themselves against social risks or natural disasters (Fischer et al. 2006). Secondly, this social status comes along with economic well-being. The symbols of economic wellbeing were mainly a reliable income source coming through a salary, ownership of property such as a car as well as a decent home.

Last but not least, the comfort of holding onto a reliable job seemed to constitute yet another source of gratification for the above participants. As observed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) (2015), formal employment remains vital to people's well-being. Over and above the fact that formal employment provides income, it can pave the way for broader social and economic advancement, strengthening individuals, their families and communities. Arguably, labour market inclusion of persons with disabilities tends to reduce stigma and promote inclusion. It has long been observed that workplace participation has always been considered one of the most effective means of breaking down deeply entrenched stereotypes that act as formidable barriers to social equity (Heymann et al. 2014: 2). The expectation that individuals must contribute to the economic development of their communities by performing labor in some way in order to be viable members of society remains a long-cherished value found in both developed nations and in tribal cultures. Some national identities were developed on the foundation that citizens excelled at productivity and competition.

In this regard, gainful and freely chosen employment, whether within the boundaries of a labour market or through self-employment or other informal initiatives, provides benefits that are both instrumental means and ends in themselves (Heymann et al. 2014: 1).

Access to formal employment for persons with disabilities has therefore occupied a central space on the debate of social inclusion, with many scholars, disability activists and policy makers flagging it out as a sustainable panacea to dealing with the deleterious effects of poverty that tends to punctuate the lives of persons with disabilities. In the background of the academic debate over these issues are the concerns of policymakers, disability advocates, and persons with disabilities themselves over the success of their efforts to better integrate working-aged people with disabilities into the workforce, increase their employment, and reduce their dependence on disability-based income support programs (Stapleton and Burkhauser 2003). Reference was constantly and consistently made to the fact that "we are far much better than most of our colleagues who live a life of begging". This finding runs in sharp contrast to the proposition advanced by a number of ablest in society that poverty among persons with disabilities was mainly caused by laziness and lack of initiative. Contrary to "the bell curve" idea popularized by Herrnstein and Murray (1994), the above discussion revealed that persons with disabilities were active agents who strive for the best in life in the middle of various constraints.

Studies from Munsaka (2012) Corbly (2011) as well as Roske (2003) point to the fact that government can in fact serve a lot of financial resources simply by creating an enabling environment within which such individuals can participate in the formal and non-formal economic activities. Emphasising the same point, Katsui (2005) observed that government could as well serve a lot of resources by economically empowering persons with disabilities, especially those who can work and in turn pay taxes thereby contributing directly to the national fiscus.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this paper has chronicled the economic side of the lived realities of persons with disabilities. Contrary to conventional wisdom, the paper has shown the zeal and determination of persons with disabilities to lead a life with dignity through economic independence. The active citizenship of persons with disabilities largely expressed through participating in economic activities just like the rest of society was however stifled by inadequate support from government wherein lines of credit meant to benefit the poor were beyond the reach of the disability constituency. Be that as it may, given appropriate technical and financial support, this paper has shown a vast potential endemic in persons with disabilities upon which society could leverage in its quest for a broad-based development agenda.

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Die Teilhabe von Menschen mit Behinderungen am Wirtschaftsleben einer Gesellschaft ist nach wie vor ein wesentlicher Aspekt ihrer Staatsbürgerschaft. Dies gilt insbesondere in Umgebungen, in denen Behinderung eher als wirtschaftliche und soziale Belastung angesehen wird, vor allem in Ländern des Globalen Südens wie Simbabwe. Vor diesem Hintergrund untersucht dieser Beitrag das Handlungsbewusstsein von Menschen mit Behinderungen, die sich durch die gleichberechtigte Teilnahme an verschiedenen wirtschaftlichen Aktivitäten in ihren Gemeinschaften selbst versorgen. Unter Verwendung eines qualitativen Forschungsansatzes stützt sich der Beitrag auf ausführliche Interviews, die der Autor mit sechs Personen mit Albinismus bzw. Sehbehinderungen geführt hat. Die gesammelten Daten zeigten, dass Menschen mit Behinderungen aktive Wirtschaftsakteure waren, die ihren Lebensunterhalt mit einer Reihe von unternehmerischen Aktivitäten bestritten. Dazu gehörten unter anderem Straßenverkauf, grenzüberschreitender Handel sowie formelle Beschäftigung. Der Beitrag beklagt die mangelnde Unterstützung durch die Regierung, die das Potenzial von Menschen mit Behinderungen zur Selbsthilfe tendenziell einschränkt. Der Beitrag schließt mit der Feststellung, dass Menschen mit Behinderungen bei finanzieller Unterstützung durch die Regierung über ein enormes wirtschaftliches Potenzial verfügen, das die Gesellschaft nutzen könnte, um positive Veränderungen zu bewirken.

RÉSUMÉ

La participation des personnes handicapées à la vie économique de toute société reste un aspect essentiel de leur citoyenneté. Cela est particulièrement vrai dans les environnements où le handicap est considéré comme un fardeau économique et social, notamment dans les pays du Sud tels que le Zimbabwe. C'est dans ce contexte que le présent document explore le sentiment d'autonomie dont font preuve les personnes handicapées pour subvenir à leurs besoins en participant à diverses activités économiques sur un pied d'égalité avec les autres membres de leur communauté. Utilisant une approche de recherche qualitative, l'article s'appuie sur des entretiens approfondis menés par l'auteur auprès de six personnes atteintes d'albinisme et de déficience visuelle, respectivement. Les données recueillies ont révélé que les personnes handicapées étaient des agents économiques actifs, gagnant leur vie grâce à diverses activités commerciales. Il s'agissait notamment de la vente ambulante, du commerce transfrontalier et de l'emploi formel. L'article déplore le manque de soutien de la part du gouvernement, qui tend à limiter le potentiel d'autonomie des personnes handicapées. L'article se termine en observant que, grâce au soutien financier du gouvernement, les personnes handicapées possèdent un vaste potentiel économique dont la société pourrait tirer parti pour créer un changement positif.

RESUMEN

La participación de las personas con discapacidad en la vida económica de cualquier sociedad sigue siendo un aspecto fundamental de su ciudadanía. Esto es especialmente cierto en entornos en los que la discapacidad se considera más bien una carga económica y social, en particular en países del Sur Global como Zimbabue. En este contexto, el presente documento analiza la capacidad de acción que demuestran las personas con discapacidad para valerse por sí mismas participando en diversas actividades económicas en igualdad de condiciones con el resto de miembros de sus comunidades. Utilizando un enfoque de investigación cualitativa, el documento se benefició de entrevistas en profundidad realizadas por el autor a seis personas con albinismo y discapacidad visual, respectivamente. Los datos recopilados revelaron que las personas con discapacidad eran agentes económicos activos que se ganaban la vida con diversas iniciativas empresariales. Entre ellas se encontraban, entre otras, la venta ambulante, el comercio transfronterizo y el empleo formal. El documento lamenta la falta de apoyo del Gobierno, que tiende a limitar el potencial de las personas con discapacidad para valerse por sí mismas. El documento concluye observando que, con el respaldo financiero del Gobierno, las personas con discapacidad poseen un enorme potencial económico que la sociedad podría aprovechar para generar un cambio positivo.

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Displacement Within Dwellings: Reclaiming the Right to Disability-Inclusive Housing in Informal Settlements and Urban Development in Sub-Saharan Africa

Msafiri Ngololo

In Sub-Saharan Africa, the rapid expansion of informal settlements frequently occurs in the absence of basic infrastructure, accessible pathways, and inclusive urban planning, thereby compromising residents' fundamental rights to adequate housing, personal safety, and human dignity. Despite increasing scholarly attention to disability and urban development, disability-inclusive housing remains markedly under-researched and overlooked. Persons with disabilities continue to encounter pervasive environmental barriers and social stigma, while existing policy and legal frameworks fail to adequately address these challenges – resulting in their functional exclusion even when formal housing is provided. Discrimination, unsafe environments, and limited access to services persist. This article addresses that gap by examining the concept of "displacement within dwellings." It explores these issues through the lens of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Article 9 on accessibility and Article 28 on an adequate standard of living and social protection and SDGs 10 on reducing inequalities and 11 on creating inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities for all. Drawing on the author lived experiences, this article emphasizes the need for accessible infrastructure, participatory planning, and community-driven solutions, advocating for rights-based urban development where persons with disabilities are actively included and empowered to shape their cities. As we shape the future, it is essential to recognize that every initiative whether infrastructure development or service delivery must deliberately account for the visibility of persons with disabilities and the full spectrum of human diversity in bodily functions and needs. Inclusive design should be embedded in housing and urban development policy aspects from the outset to prevent the replication of systemic exclusion and to ensure that urban development fosters equal access, dignity, and meaningful participation for all.

Introduction: Disability Models, Housing and Discrimination

Disability represents a significant development challenge, affecting approximately 1.3 billion individuals worldwide (World Health Organization 2022), an approximate 16% of the world population (Patrick et al. 2024). The definition of disability remains contested and evolving; it is shaped by different models that reflect divergent philosophical, medical, and socio-political perspectives (Smart 2009; Goering 2015; Cobley 2011). Among the most widely recognized are the human rights model of disability, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) developed by the World Health Organization (World Health Organization 2011), the charity model, the medical model, and the social model (Goering 2015; Smart 2009). Each model contributes valuable insights on the complex realities experienced by persons with disabilities (Smart 2009). This underscores the need for considering context-sensitive, interdisciplinary approaches such as the Capability Approach (Toboso 2011), SEED-SCALE theory (Taylor/Taylor 2016), Asset-Based Community Development (Ibrahima 2017), and the Human Rights-Based Approach (Worm 2012; Broberg et al. 2020) that bridge theory with lived experience.

Siloed approaches such as the Charity Model of Disability, for instance, portray

persons with disabilities (PwDs) as passive recipients of pity and care rather than rights-holders and active citizens (Ingstad/Eide 2017). This model continues to shape public and policy attitudes and undermines rights-based frameworks as enshrined in the UNCRPD and the SDGs (United Nations 2006; United Nations 2015). According to the social model of disability and the Capability Approach, the limitations experienced by PwDs are not solely the result of individual impairments but are significantly shaped by structural, environmental, and attitudinal barriers that constrain their capabilities, agency, and full participation in society (Wobbrock et al. 2018). Such situations can lead to experiences of discrimination in the form of social exclusion and economic marginalization (EBRD 2020).

Discrimination refers to any distinction, whether intentional or not, based on the personal characteristics of an individual or group that results in disadvantages not faced by others. It may impose additional burdens, deny opportunities, or limit access to benefits and resources that are otherwise available to members of society (Andrews v. Law Society of British Columbia 1989; thinkhumanrights o.J.). Discrimination can be categorized into four key forms: direct, adverse-effect, systemic, and harassment (Equal Opportunities Commission o.J.). Ultimately, this article calls for a rights-based, disability-inclusive approach to urban development that upholds the values of equality, participation, and social justice for all, regardless of ability (Wobbrock et al. 2018; Goering 2015).

Disability and Urban Displacement

Disability studies have historically been dominated by Western theoretical frameworks, often neglecting the diverse socio-cultural realities of the Global South, thus universalising a Western conception in the Sub-Saharan regional context (Mariech 2023). Across Sub-Saharan Africa, the rapid urbanization process often overlooks a critical demographic of persons with disabilities. While cities grow in density and complexity, informal settlements remain sites of exclusion and marginalization. This exclusion is not merely structural or economic – it is a fundamental violation of human rights; as Elwan (1999) notes, "Exclusion and marginalization reduce the opportunities for the disabled to contribute productively to the household and the community and increase the risk of falling into poverty." Housing for community members, including persons with disabilities, is more than shelter; it is a gateway to dignity, safety, participation, and opportunity. When urban development fails to account for disability inclusion, it reinforces poverty, invisibility, and systemic discrimination (Boardman 2016).

From a human rights perspective, disability in urban and slum housing contexts must be understood not as an outcome of individual limitations, but as the result of structural exclusion. Much of this exclusion is created and perpetuated through systemic barriers. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) affirms the right of persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all areas of life, including access to adequate and accessible housing, as articulated in Articles 19 and 28 (United Nations 2006). Despite this, millions of persons with disabilities – especially those in urban poor communities and informal settlements across Sub-Saharan Africa – remain excluded from basic services, infrastructure, and decision-making spaces (Goering 2015).

According to the World Health Organization and World Bank (World Health Organization/World Bank 2011; Banks et al. 2017), disability arises not merely from impairments but from structural barriers that hinder full and effective participation in society. These barriers are most pronounced in low-income urban areas, where informal housing, lack of adaptive infrastructure, and poor service provision converge to create deeply disabling environments (Diang'a 2011). Informal settlements are characterized by lack of security of tenure and access to basic infrastructure such as water, electricity, and roads. Housing is often self-constructed, substandard, and rarely connected to water or sewage networks; road access and toilets are inadequate and sometimes non-existent (Diang'a 2011). In many Sub-Saharan African cities, up to 73% of the urban population lives in such settlements, which, despite their affordability, remain fundamentally exclusionary for persons with disabilities and are often suggested to hamper sustainable growth (Kolowa et al. 2024; Wekesa et al. 2011). Features for navigating city streets independently, for instance, are scarce, inconsistent, or absent altogether (Frye 2013).

Poverty and Marginality

Persons with disabilities (PwDs) often experience deeper, more persistent poverty than their non-disabled counterparts (Darcy/Collins/Stronach 2020). In extreme cases, some PwDs may resort to begging as a survival strategy, reinforcing social stigma and the perception of disability as dependency, which negatively affects their wellbeing and growth as human beings (United Republic of Tanzania 2010; Buhori 2014). Research highlights the intersection of disability with poverty, inequality, discrimination, and human rights

„Inclusive design should be embedded in housing and urban development policy aspects from the outset to prevent the replication of systemic exclusion and to ensure that urban development fosters equal access, dignity, and meaningful participation for all."

violations (Nosek/Hughes 2003).

Disability contributes to multidimensional poverty and reduced educational and employment opportunities (Mitra/Posarac/Vick 2013). Poverty not only limits access to education and employment but also to safe, adequate, and affordable housing (Diang'a 2011). Beyond income poverty, individuals with disabilities – particularly those in informal settlements – face compounded disadvantages, including inadequate housing, unsafe living environments, and limited access to essential services such as clean water and sanitation. These factors heighten environmental health risks (Corburn/Hildebrand 2015).

As Corburn/Hildebrand (2015) emphasize, „living in poor urban communities, particularly informal settlements often referred to as slums, bear the brunt of inadequate sanitation facilities in cities," which contributes to high rates of cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and intestinal parasites (Mariech 2023). These systemic failures create a cycle where poor living conditions exacerbate health challenges and functional limitations, deepening poverty and further restricting opportunities for improvement. Yet life in slums can also produce vital social networks, such as collaborative funeral services, informal infrastructure sharing, and community-based security initiatives (Barbareschi et al. 2020).

Researchers have also shown that poverty not only increases the likelihood of disability but also exacerbates its effects (Mariech 2023). Barriers faced by persons with disabilities – such as lack of accessibility, discrimination, and inadequate services – further intensify their vulnerability to poverty, leading to the characterization of disabled individuals as „the poorest of the poor" (Grech/Groce/Mitra 2018; Katsui o.J.). This mutually reinforcing cycle requires targeted interventions to address both the structural barriers that contribute to poverty and the systemic exclusion of persons with disabilities. Such exclusion not only suppresses talent and potential but also leads to missed opportunities for national development (Nonthapat et al. 2019; Afoakwah/Dauda 2016).

Disability and marginalization are deeply intertwined (Wobbrock et al. 2018). While not all PwDs live in poverty, the vicious cycle suggests that disabled individuals are more likely to experience poverty than their non-disabled peers (Trani/Loeb 2012; Mont et al. 2007). A primary driver of this extreme poverty is the exclusion of disabled individuals from essential services such as healthcare, which further exacerbates existing disabilities and hinders recovery or management (Mariech 2023).

Disability-Inclusive Housing and Urban Development Challenges

Despite the existence of global frameworks like the SDGs and the UNCRPD (Parthasarathy/Dey/Gupta 2021), urban planning practices continue to overlook the needs of persons with disabilities (PwDs) (United Nations 2006). This persistent exclusion reflects the failure of many governments – and at times even international bodies – to fully implement and uphold these legal mandates. Deeply embedded discriminatory design norms and societal attitudes often manifest in exclusionary infrastructure such as inaccessible public toilets, footpaths, or transportation hubs. Urban development initiatives and transport planning are often dominated by ableist norms, which frequently ignore accessibility needs, leading to cities that segregate and limit the participation of PwDs in economic, social, and civic life (Boardman 2016).

In informal settlements, most PwDs live in rental housing that is not designed according to standards meeting their accessibility needs. These units, often made of low-quality materials, serve multiple functions within cramped spaces (Mariech 2023). While affordable, they lack essential infrastructure like ramps, indoor taps, or toilets. Inaccessible housing worsens health and mobility challenges, perpetuating exclusion and increasing vulnerability. Some PwDs even face rental discrimination or inflated housing costs due to their specific needs (Mariech 2023; Fernandes 2004).

Although the SDGs reference disability inclusion, it is explicitly mentioned in only seven out of 169 targets, and just twelve of the 231 indicators require disability-disaggregated data. This reflects a significant gap in the meaningful inclusion of persons with disabilities (Modéer o.J.). As efforts to achieve the SDGs progress, this article argues that the design of environments, products, and services must adopt inclusive approaches that avoid stigmatizing or drawing undue attention to bodily differences, including impairments. Instead, design should reflect the principles of Universal Design – ensuring inclusivity, usability, and dignity for all individuals, regardless of ability (Imrie 2012). Inclusive planning and affordable, accessible housing are essential for building equitable urban futures (Mariech 2023; Fernandes 2004).

Embedding Disability Inclusion in Housing and Urban Development

Various findings highlight the need to rethink how we plan our cities, emphasizing that adhering to standards and best practices can significantly enhance the resilience of human settlements (Boardman 2016). Despite rapid urbanization, the intersection of disability and housing in Sub-Saharan Africa remains a critically under-researched area (United Nations 2018). Persons with disabilities often face exclusion from accessible, affordable housing due to structural barriers, discrimination, and socio-economic marginalization (UN-Habitat 2020).

As informal settlements expand, this neglect undermines their rights, especially under Article 19 of the UNCRPD on independent living and community inclusion (United Nations o.J.). Achieving inclusive urban development requires a human rights-based approach and co-creation of inclusion systems. Strategies include applying Universal Design principles (Jayakar 2012), engaging Community-Based Inclusive Development (CBID), and ensuring full participation of persons with disabilities in planning (Bricout/Baker/Moon/Sharma 2021). Cross-sectoral coordination and enforcement of inclusive practices are essential to meet the goals of SDG 11 (United Nations 2015; Bachfischer et al. 2023).

Leave No One Behind: Disability-Led Participatory Monitoring of SDGs and UNCRPD

Global commitments such as the UNCRPD (United Nations o.J.), the SDGs, and the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy emphasize the principle of "leaving no one behind" (Wekesa/Steyn/Otieno 2011). These frameworks call for disability-inclusive development through participatory monitoring (Watene/Mirfin-Veitch/Asaka 2023). This ensures that the lived experiences of persons with disabilities (PwDs) inform urban planning and policymaking. The UNCRPD, rooted in the social model of disability (Goering 2015), highlights the need to dismantle societal barriers to ensure equality and inclusion. Yet in practice, rights to housing, health, and education remain unfulfilled due to structural exclusion (World Health Organization 2022).

Rapid urbanization exacerbates these challenges, particularly in informal settlements, which house millions of urban poor, including PwDs (Mariech 2023; Wekesa/Steyn/Otieno 2011). With only 10% of Africa's land formally documented, many residents – especially PwDs – lack secure tenure or legal protection (United Nations 2022; World Health Organization/World Bank 2011). Inadequate infrastructure, unaffordable housing, and exclusionary design perpetuate poverty and isolation (United Nations 2022).

Participatory monitoring – led by PwDs and informal dwellers – can offer practical, inclusive solutions (Watene/Mirfin-Veitch/Asaka 2023). This approach must be embedded in urban policy to ensure accountability, transparency, and inclusive governance. Disability-led data collection, mapping, and community audits provide local evidence to address hidden inequities and advocate for accessible urban environments (United Nations o.J.).

PwDs in informal settlements face extreme exclusion and health risks (Hall/Wilton 2017), often living near ecological hazards or in environments fostering "slow death" (Wekesa/Steyn/Otieno 2011). Shared, inaccessible latrines pose significant health threats, contributing to disease outbreaks like cholera (Gathura/Koross 2015). Barriers such as distance to toilets, lack of privacy, and unsafe environments diminish the quality of life for disabled residents (Wekesa/Steyn/Otieno 2011). Housing policies often adopt a "one-size-fits-all" model that fails to address the specific needs of PwDs (Hag Adam 2020; Kiddle 2010). Effective strategies must consider local context, employ Universal Design, and include PwDs from design to implementation (Watene/Mirfin-Veitch/Asaka 2023). Aligning with SDG 11 and UNCRPD Articles 9 and 28 (United Nations 2006; United Nations o.J.), disability-led participatory monitoring is essential for building inclusive, responsive cities (United Nations 2022; Hag Adam 2020). Only by recognizing the agency and insight of PwDs can we create urban spaces that truly leave no one behind (Watene/Mirfin-Veitch/Asaka 2023).

Legislation, Accessibility, and Housing Rights for Persons with Disabilities

Urbanization in Sub-Saharan Africa is accelerating rapidly; however, most countries in the region face significant challenges in enforcing accessibility legislation, securing funding, and implementing inclusive urban planning strategies (Austin 2023). While an increasing number of national laws formally recognize accessibility as a key component of dignity and inclusion for persons with disabilities, legal recognition alone remains insufficient in practice (United Nations o.J.). In Tanzania, for instance, the literature rarely disaggregates urban development or housing data through the lens of disability (Combaz 2015), resulting in a critical knowledge gap regarding the lived realities of persons with disabilities in informal settlements.

The Persons with Disabilities Act (2010) in Tanzania mandates accessible infrastructure, assistive technologies, and a barrier-free environment – provisions that align with Article 9 of the UNCRPD, which guarantees equal access to the physical environment, transportation, and communication systems (United Nations o.J.). However, implementation remains weak due to inadequate enforcement, low public awareness, and insufficient political will (IDA 2022; Breznitz/Zehavi 2024).

Compounding these challenges are systemic legal and structural barriers that disproportionately affect women and girls with disabilities. Discriminatory laws and practices regarding inheritance, land ownership, mortgage eligibility, and marital status – coupled with entrenched patriarchal norms – undermine equitable access to housing. Bureaucratic inefficiencies and lack of accountability within Tanzania's land authority, particularly regarding land acquisition and registration, pose significant challenges for individuals, including those with disabilities. These issues contribute to land-related conflicts, insecure land tenure, and limited access to services and opportunities for vulnerable groups. The failure of regulatory frameworks to govern informal settlements further exacerbates these vulnerabilities (Combaz 2015).

Violence against women and stigma associated with disability and conditions such as HIV/AIDS remain pervasive, contributing to multidimensional poverty and limited access to credit or secure tenure. While participation in governance and development processes is often cited as a principle of inclusion, it tends to be symbolic or superficial rather than meaningfully participatory (IDA 2022; Breznitz/Zehavi 2024).

Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) are frequently involved too late in policy processes or without meaningful influence, reflecting a broader pattern of exclusion that undermines both human rights and national development goals (Afoakwah/Dauda 2016; IDA 2022; Lalvani 2015). Persons with disabilities are frequently portrayed through a deficit-based lens – viewed as dependent, incapable, or passive recipients of charity rather than as active citizens and agents of change (Ingstad/Eide 2017). As Lalvani (2015) incisively observed, society often perceives PwDs "as if they are not part of the community, as if they come from outer space," like aliens (Lalvani 2015), linking this with issues of stigma, otherness, and marginalisation (Lalvani 2015).

Without the participation of persons with disabilities, interventions often fail (Watene/Mirfin-Veitch/Asaka 2023). Real progress requires localized implementation, resource allocation, and political commitment. In this context, achieving inclusive and accessible housing for persons with disabilities – especially women and girls – requires not only legal frameworks but also robust enforcement mechanisms, community-driven planning, and integrated approaches that address intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion. Promising steps in this direction include Kenya's Disability Act (Republic of Kenya 2003), Uganda's Accessibility Standards (Nakatumba Nabende/Kivunike/Kanagwa/Tuape 2019), and South Africa's Equality Act (South Africa 2016), but broader accountability remains vital.

Conclusion: Dignity Begins at Home

Disability-inclusive housing is a human right, not a privilege. As urbanization surges in Sub-Saharan Africa, cities must expand equitably, placing persons with disabilities at the center of planning and design. Inclusive urban development demands accessible infrastructure, participatory governance, and recognition of diverse lived experiences. Current gaps – such as exclusionary policies, inaccessible housing, and weak enforcement – must be addressed through rights-based frameworks, smart technologies, and grassroots initiatives.

Ensuring equal access to services, property, education, and employment is vital. True inclusion requires intersectional approaches that consider, among others, geography, income, age, and gender – making dignity and justice the foundation of urban futures for all (Wekesa/Steyn/Otieno 2011).

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

In Subsahara-Afrika kommt es häufig zu einer raschen Ausbreitung informeller Siedlungen, in denen es an grundlegender Infrastruktur, barrierefreien Wegen und einer inklusiven Stadtplanung mangelt, wodurch die Grundrechte der Bewohner auf angemessenen Wohnraum, persönliche Sicherheit und Menschenwürde beeinträchtigt werden. Trotz der zunehmenden wissenschaftlichen Aufmerksamkeit für Behinderung und Stadtentwicklung wird barrierefreies Wohnen nach wie vor deutlich zu wenig erforscht und übersehen. Menschen mit Behinderungen sind weiterhin mit allgegenwärtigen Umweltbarrieren und sozialer Stigmatisierung konfrontiert, während die bestehenden politischen und rechtlichen Rahmenbedingungen diesen Herausforderungen nicht angemessen begegnen – was zu ihrer funktionalen Ausgrenzung führt, selbst wenn formeller Wohnraum zur Verfügung steht. Diskriminierung, unsichere Umgebungen und eingeschränkter Zugang zu Dienstleistungen bestehen weiterhin. Dieser Artikel befasst sich mit dieser Lücke, indem er das Konzept der „Vertreibung innerhalb von Wohnräumen" untersucht. Es untersucht diese Themen unter Berücksichtigung der UN-Konvention über die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen, Artikel 9 über Barrierefreiheit und Artikel 28 über einen angemessenen Lebensstandard und

sozialen Schutz sowie der SDGs 10 zur Verringerung von Ungleichheiten und 11 zur Schaffung inklusiver, sicherer, widerstandsfähiger und nachhaltiger Städte für alle. Ausgehend von den eigenen Erfahrungen des Autors betont dieser Artikel die Notwendigkeit einer barrierefreien Infrastruktur, partizipativer Planung und gemeindegesteuerter Lösungen und plädiert für eine rechtsbasierte Stadtentwicklung, bei der Menschen mit Behinderungen aktiv einbezogen und befähigt werden, ihre Städte mitzugestalten. Bei der Gestaltung der Zukunft ist es unerlässlich zu erkennen, dass jede Initiative, sei es die Entwicklung von Infrastruktur oder die Erbringung von Dienstleistungen, bewusst die Sichtbarkeit von Menschen mit Behinderungen und das gesamte Spektrum der menschlichen Vielfalt in Bezug auf körperliche Funktionen und Bedürfnisse berücksichtigen muss. Inklusives Design sollte von Anfang an in die Aspekte der Wohnungs- und Stadtentwicklungspolitik eingebettet werden, um die Wiederholung systemischer Ausgrenzung zu verhindern und sicherzustellen, dass die Stadtentwicklung gleichen Zugang, Würde und sinnvolle Teilhabe für alle fördert.

RÉSUMÉ

En Afrique subsaharienne, l'expansion rapide des quartiers informels se fait souvent en l'absence d'infrastructures de base, de voies d'accès et d'un urbanisme inclusif, compromettant ainsi les droits fondamentaux des habitants à un logement adéquat, à la sécurité personnelle et à la dignité humaine. Malgré l'intérêt croissant des chercheurs pour le handicap et le développement urbain, le logement inclusif pour les personnes handicapées reste largement sous-étudié et négligé. Les personnes handicapées continuent de se heurter à des obstacles environnementaux omniprésents et à une stigmatisation sociale, tandis que les cadres politiques et juridiques existants ne parviennent pas à relever ces défis de manière adéquate, ce qui entraîne leur exclusion fonctionnelle même lorsqu'un logement formel leur est fourni. La discrimination, les environnements dangereux et l'accès limité aux services persistent. Cet article comble cette lacune en examinant le concept de « déplacement au sein des logements ». Il explore ces questions à travers le prisme de la Convention des Nations Unies relative aux droits des personnes handicapées, notamment son article 9 sur l'accessibilité et son article 28 sur un niveau de vie et une protection sociale adéquats, ainsi que les ODD 10 sur la réduction des inégalités et 11 sur la création de villes inclusives, sûres, résilientes et durables pour tous. S'appuyant sur les expériences vécues par l'auteur, cet article souligne la nécessité de disposer d'infrastructures accessibles, d'une planification participative et de solutions communautaires, en plaidant pour un développement urbain fondé sur les droits, dans lequel les personnes handicapées sont activement incluses et habilitées à façonner leurs villes. Alors que nous façonnons l'avenir, il est essentiel de reconnaître que chaque initiative, qu'il s'agisse du développement des infrastructures ou de la prestation de services, doit délibérément tenir compte de la visibilité des personnes handicapées et de toute la diversité humaine en matière de fonctions et de besoins physiques. La conception inclusive doit être intégrée dès le départ dans les aspects politiques du logement et du développement urbain afin d'éviter la reproduction de l'exclusion systémique et de garantir que le développement urbain favorise l'égalité d'accès, la dignité et la participation significative de tous.

RESUMEN

En el África subsahariana, la rápida expansión de los asentamientos informales suele producirse en ausencia de infraestructuras básicas, vías accesibles y una planificación urbana inclusiva, lo que compromete los derechos fundamentales de los residentes a una vivienda adecuada, la seguridad personal y la dignidad humana. A pesar de la creciente atención académica que se presta a la discapacidad y al desarrollo urbano, la vivienda inclusiva para las personas con discapacidad sigue estando muy poco investigada y se pasa por alto. Las personas con discapacidad siguen encontrando barreras ambientales generalizadas y estigma social, mientras que los marcos políticos y jurídicos existentes no abordan adecuadamente estos retos, lo que da lugar a su exclusión funcional incluso cuando se les proporciona una vivienda formal. Persisten la discriminación, los entornos inseguros y el acceso limitado a los servicios. Este artículo aborda esa laguna examinando el concepto de «desplazamiento dentro de las viviendas». Explora estas cuestiones a través del prisma del artículo 9 de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre los Derechos de las Personas con Discapacidad, relativo a la accesibilidad, y del artículo 28, relativo a un nivel de vida y una protección social adecuados, así como de los ODS 10, relativo a la reducción de las desigualdades, y 11, relativo a la creación de ciudades inclusivas, seguras, resilientes y sostenibles para todos. Basándose en las experiencias vividas por el autor, este artículo hace hincapié en la necesidad de contar con infraestructuras accesibles, una planificación participativa y soluciones impulsadas por la comunidad, abogando por un desarrollo urbano basado en los derechos en el que las personas con discapacidad se incluyan activamente y se les empodere para dar forma a sus ciudades. A medida que damos forma al futuro, es esencial reconocer que toda iniciativa, ya sea de desarrollo de infraestructuras o de prestación de servicios, debe tener en cuenta deliberadamente la visibilidad de las personas con discapacidad y todo el espectro de la diversidad humana en cuanto a funciones y necesidades corporales. El diseño inclusivo debe integrarse desde el principio en los aspectos de las políticas de vivienda y desarrollo urbano para evitar que se repita la exclusión sistémica y garantizar que el desarrollo urbano fomente la igualdad de acceso, la dignidad y la participación significativa de todos.

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A Climate-Resilient Future for Everyone: A New Training on Disability-Inclusive Climate Action

Climate Change and Disability: An Overlooked Connection highlights how persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by climate change yet often excluded from related policies and decision-making. Barriers such as inaccessible emergency plans, limited representation, and lack of inclusive policies increase their vulnerability. To address this gap, a new virtual training programme has been developed by CBM Global, as part of a joint UN initiative. This first-of-its-kind training aims to build capacity among Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and climate actors to ensure disability-inclusive climate action. It includes four core modules covering climate justice, national climate frameworks, inclusive collaboration, and engagement in climate policy reviews. The training is interactive, accessible, and co-created with OPDs and global partners. It equips participants with practical tools and knowledge to influence inclusive climate policies and programs. As climate action intensifies, this initiative ensures no one is left behind. The training is open-source and available for use with proper acknowledgment.

Information: https://globaldisabilityfund.org/climate-resilient-future-training-disability-inclusive-climate-action/

Following Coamex and IDA's Advocacy: CMW Committee Issues Groundbreaking Recommendations to Mexico on Rights of Migrants with Disabilities

The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW Committee), published its Concluding Observations on Mexico, Niger and Jamaica adopted during the 40th session. Following Coamex - Mexico Coalition for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs umbrella organisation) and International Disability Alliance's collaboration, the Concluding Observations on Mexico included a strong focus on the rights of migrants with disabilities. In contrast to the previous 17 Concluding Observations (sessions 34th to 39th), which included few to no references to disability, except Peru, the Mexico report includes 12 references to disability and migrants with disabilities. Moreover, the Committee not only included migrants with disabilities and/or disability into broader recommendations on intersectionality and ministerial coordination, but also issued standalone recommendations focusing exclusively on the rights of migrants with disabilities. Importantly, most likely in response to Coamex's submissions, the Committee expressed its concern on „[a]llegations of cases of torture or other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment of migrants with disabilities by migration agents and degrading treatment of migrants with disabilities by migration agents and in detention...". Consequently, it recommended Mexico to „[d]evelop and continue to strengthen adequate protection strategies that take into account the specific risks face by vulnerable groups in the context of mobility, ensuring a coordinated response, based on human rights and with an intersectional approach, adopted in consultation and collaboration with civil society organisations specialised in the care of such groups". The CMW Committee recommended that Mexico should ensure full accessibility of services and information for migrants with disabilities. This includes implementing physical adaptations, providing materials in multiple languages, Braille, and sign language, and ensuring their effective availability at all relevant service points. The Committee also recommended that Mexico ensure accessibility and adequate assistance for migrants with disabilities, including access to medical services, rehabilitation, and psychosocial support.

Information: https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/blog/following-coamex-and-idas-advocacy-cmw-committee-issues-groundbreaking-recommendations-mexico

Launch of the WHO Global Initiative on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities

Over 1.3 billion people have a disability worldwide, with many experiencing health inequities such as earlier deaths and higher disease risks arising from unfair and avoidable conditions within and beyond the health system. A global mechanism is urgently needed to better prioritise and

collaborate on efforts to improve the health outcomes for persons with disabilities and achieve progress towards health for all. The WHO Global initiative on health equity for persons with disabilities aims to play this critical role. The WHO Global initiative on health equity for persons with disabilities was officially launched on 10 June 2025, during a side event of the 18th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event introduced and elevated the visibility of the WHO Global initiative on health equity for persons with disabilities. High-level representatives from Member States and key health and disability stakeholders discussed the importance of the initiative, its priorities, and the roles of its members. Partners and co-sponsors included several Member States (Australia, Germany, Norway and Sweden), the Global Disability Fund (GDF), the International Disability Alliance (IDA), the Christian Blind Mission (CBM), Down Syndrome International (DSI), Humanity and Inclusion (HI), the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), Sightsavers, Special Olympics (SO), and the World Health Organisation (WHO). Further information can be found via the following link.

Information: https://www.who.int/initiatives/disability-health-equity-initiative

Situation of Persons with Disabilities Affected by the War in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

The European Disability Forum (EDF) submitted a contribution in response to the Committee's call for written inputs regarding the implementation of Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) – situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies – in the context of the war in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT). The EDF's observations are informed by communications with disability activists and organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in Palestine, reports from humanitarian actors, and their sustained advocacy towards the EU to uphold its obligations under the Convention. The findings highlight that the number of persons with disabilities in OPT has risen sharply due to conflict-related injuries and the collapse of healthcare services, yet their voices remain largely excluded from humanitarian decision-making. Humanitarian aid distribution points and shelters are often inaccessible, disability-disaggregated data is lacking, rehabilitation services and assistive device supply chains are disrupted, and psychosocial distress is increasing without adequate mental health support. EDF recommends that States, including the EU, ensure the safety and protection of persons with disabilities, lift the blockade on Gaza to allow access to aid, medicine, and assistive devices, make humanitarian aid and evacuation routes fully accessible, collect and use disability-disaggregated data, and involve Palestinian OPDs in all humanitarian and reconstruction efforts. Additionally, EDF calls on States to condemn starvation as a method of warfare and guarantee access to food, water, and essential nutrition, and to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of civilian hostages, providing urgent medical care and psychosocial support to those with disabilities. The full EDF report can be read here:

Information: https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/situation-of-persons-with-disabilities-affected-by-the-war-in-the-occupied-palestinian-territory/

EWIPA-Monitor 2024: Zivilbevölkerung in 74 Ländern von Explosivwaffen betroffen / starker Anstieg

Der EWIPA-Monitor 2024 berichtet von verheerenden humanitären Folgen durch den Einsatz von Explosivwaffen in Wohngebieten. Anlässlich der Veröffentlichung des Monitors im Mai 2025 weist die humanitäre Hilfsorganisation Handicap International (HI) darauf hin, dass in 74 Ländern Zivilist*innen verletzt oder getötet und Infrastruktur beschädigt wurden. Vor allem die Zivilbevölkerung in den Palästinensischen Gebieten, aber auch im Libanon, in Myanmar, Sudan, Syrien und der Ukraine waren betroffen. HI teilte mit, dass 60 % aller weltweit gemeldeten zivilen Todesopfer durch Explosivwaffen im Jahr 2024 aus den Palästinensischen Gebieten stammten. Gleichzeitig sei auch die Zahl der Opfer in anderen Ländern deutlich gestiegen – teilweise um über 60 %. Die Hilfsorganisation erklärte außerdem, dass gezielte Angriffe auf zivile Infrastruktur erheblich zugenommen hätten. Angriffe auf das Gesundheitswesen, etwa auf Krankenhäuser oder Rettungsdienste, seien im Vergleich zum Vorjahr um 64 % angestiegen. Angriffe auf Bildungseinrichtungen hätten sich mehr als verdoppelt, und auch humanitäre Organisationen seien deutlich häufiger betroffen gewesen – fast fünfmal so oft wie 2023. Die Leiterin der politischen Abteilung von Handicap International Deutschland, Dr. Eva Maria Fischer, erklärte, dass man eine zunehmende Missachtung des völkerrechtlichen Grundsatzes zum Schutz der Zivilbevölkerung beobachte. Konfliktparteien hielten sich oft nicht mehr an internationale Verträge und führten wahllose Angriffe

durch, bei denen immer öfter auch gezielt Zivilist*innen ins Visier genommen würden. In einigen Fällen zielten Belagerungen nicht mehr darauf ab, militärische Vorteile zu erzielen, sondern die Bevölkerung systematisch zu terrorisieren, zu verletzen und zu töten. Der Monitor wurde vom International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) erstellt, einem internationalen Bündnis, das sich gegen den Einsatz von Explosivwaffen in bewohnten Gebieten einsetzt. HI forderte abschließend ein entschiedenes internationales Vorgehen gegen den Einsatz solcher Waffen in Wohngebieten und mahnte eine stärkere Einhaltung des humanitären Völkerrechts an.

Information: https://www.handicap-international.de/de/pm-ewipa-monitor-2024

UN Recognition of the International Day of Deafblindness

The United Nations officially recognised June 27th as the International Day of Deafblindness. The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) has supported the hard advocacy work of the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB). Both organisations celebrate this new recognition of deafblind people who are part of deaf communities around the world. The date of 27 of June has been chosen to commemorate the birth of Helen Keller in 1880, a renowned figure in the deafblind community. The deafblind community already commemorates this day using it to remind the world that the deafblind community exists and must be visible. The last week of June is also recognised as Deafblind International Awareness Week. The importance and contributions of the deafblind community globally are highlighted through various events, manifestations, conferences and exhibitions.

Information: https://wfdeaf.org/un-recognition-of-the-international-day-of-deafblindness/

Petition: Reverse the Cuts. Rethink the System. Stand for Justice.

A growing coalition of civil society organisations, including ActionAid, CONCORD Europe, Eurodad, and Oxfam, is urging rich countries – particularly in Europe – to reverse recent cuts to development aid. These reductions are having severe consequences for some of the world's most marginalised countries, undermining access to basic services, democratic governance, and human rights protections. In response, campaigners are mobilising globally ahead of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, taking place in Sevilla, Spain, at the end of June and beyond that. With future aid budgets under discussion, the call is clear: governments must prioritise justice over geopolitical and economic self-interest. The petition calls on donor governments to reverse aid cuts and honour financial commitments to the Global South, improve the quality of aid, ensuring it directly tackles poverty and inequality, democratise aid governance, by empowering the United Nations to oversee aid decisions in a forum where all countries have equal voice. The organisations stress that the international public is watching. Decisions made now will shape not only the future of development cooperation but also global stability and prosperity. Citizens are encouraged to take action by signing the petition and making their voices heard.

Information: https://www.eurodad.org/aid_petition?utm_campaign=aid_launch_1&utm_medium=email&utm_source=eurodad

Literatur

Inclusive Futures

Transforming Livelihoods and Education for Refugees with Disabilities

People with disabilities – especially children – are among the most vulnerable in humanitarian crises. With the global refugee population growing, year on year, refugees with disabilities must not be overlooked. Working with their consortium partner Humanity & Inclusion (HI), Inclusive Futures developed practical learning based on their experiences from Kakuma and Kalobeyei refugee settlements in Kenya. Their two reports offer practical actions governments, humanitarian organisations, and civil society can take to unlock the potential of millions of adults and children with disabilities living in humanitarian settings by delivering inclusive education and livelihood programmes. The number of forcibly displaced people has more than doubled over the past decade. It's estimated that roughly 15-20 per cent of people who are displaced have disabilities. Refugees with disabilities face multiple and intersecting barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance, education, health care, livelihoods and other services. They are often denied certain legal rights, including the right to a nationality, and are often excluded from decision-making. Hence, Inclusive Futures has developed seven recommendations to improve education and livelihoods for people with disabilities living in refugee contexts.

Bezug: https://inclusivefutures.org/refugees-with-disabilities/

World Bank

Supporting Disability-Inclusive Employment and Education in the Kyrgyz Republic

People with disabilities represent a significant portion of the global population, and their exclusion from employment and education perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality, undermining economic development efforts. The analytical report on disability inclusive employment and education in the Kyrgyz Republic aims to analyse the challenges and opportunities faced by people with disabilities in accessing the labour market and receiving education in the Kyrgyz Republic. The report examines the current situation in the Kyrgyz Republic with respect to the recently ratified United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and identifies key barriers to inclusion, including limitations in policy and legislative frameworks and their implementation, expectations and challenges of employers, issues with educational access and attainment of skills, difficulties in accessing workplace and learning environments, as well as social stigma. The findings presented in this report are based on an extensive desk-research review and 20 qualitative interviews, as well as 13 focus groups with key informants, including representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities, people with disabilities, parents with children with disabilities, and employers. The note also presents a range of recommendations for enhancing the participation of people with disabilities in the labour market and education based on best international and local practices.

Bezug: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/0f4b1626-f599-416f-9faf-085cef65627f

International Rescue Committee

Mainstreaming Disability Inclusion in Early Childhood Development for Crisis-Affected Children in the Middle East

This case study explores how the IRC and Sesame Workshop worked together through the Ahlan Simsim initiative to make early childhood development more inclusive for children with disabilities affected by conflict in the Middle East. From the creation of Ameera – a bold and curious Muppet with a disability – to adapting learning spaces and strengthening the skills of caregivers and service providers, the initiative shows what's possible when inclusion is made a core priority. With practical lessons and reflections, the case study offers a valuable roadmap for humanitarian actors looking to ensure every child is seen, included, and supported to thrive.

Bezug: https://www.rescue.org/report/mainstreaming-disability-inclusion-early-childhood-development-crisis-affected-children

UNICEF

Accessible Digital Textbooks Nicaragua: Creating Digital Tools to Enable Inclusive Education in Nicaragua

In the Latin America and Caribbean region, more than 19 million children have a disability. In Nicaragua, disability is a major factor of exclusion from the education system. The Accessible Digital Textbooks for All (ADT) initiative, implements accessible digital tools and content to make learning accessible to all students – with and without

disabilities – in the same classroom. In 2023, Nicaragua joined the Accessible Digital Textbooks for All (ADT) initiative, aiming to strengthen inclusive education by integrating digital tools into early-grade classrooms. With support from UNICEF, the Ministry of Education piloted two ADT prototypes – one for math and one for environmental studies – in three schools in Managua, reaching over 110 students with and without disabilities. The report summarises lessons from this user testing phase, exploring how teachers and students interacted with the prototypes and what improvements are needed to ensure more inclusive learning experiences. Findings highlight the value of teacher training, the key role of ICT support, and the importance of accessible design – particularly for students with visual or hearing disabilities. The report also outlines recommendations to improve both content and technology as the initiative prepares for further implementation.

Bezug: https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/reports/accessible-digital-textbooks-nicaragua

UNICEF

Testing Digital Accessibility in Education: The Case of the Dominican Republic

In 2024, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic piloted the use of Accessible Digital Textbooks (ADTs) in six schools to assess how technology can support inclusive education. The pilot introduced storybook-style ADTs for first- and third-grade students, integrating features such as audio narration, sign language videos and image descriptions. This working paper summarises the findings from the pilot, exploring how students with and without disabilities interact with ADTs, how teachers incorporate them into lessons, and what infrastructure and support are needed to expand their use. Results show that ADTs can help foster inclusive learning environments, particularly when paired with teacher training and improved ICT resources.

Bezug: https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/reports/testing-digital-accessibility-education

Elnaz Safarha/Zeena Zakharia

Revisiting Inclusion: An Exploration of Refugee-Led Education for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Lebanon

This article explores the concept of inclusive education in contexts of forced displacement, where refugeehood intersects with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as gender, poverty, and overlapping forms of discrimination. Drawing on extensive engagement with a refugee-led, non-formal educational organisation in Lebanon, the authors revisit inclusion for refugee children with SEND through a bottom-up lens. They consider inclusion within Lebanon's sociopolitical landscape, focusing on a community of educators, most of whom are refugees themselves. Grounded in decolonial feminist epistemologies and critical refugee studies, the authors highlight the role of educators as cultural actors who employ engaged pedagogies to humanise the educational experiences of refugee children with SEND. By challenging traditional top-down, outcome-oriented policies that focus solely on structural access, this paper advocates for an alternative framework based on refugee educators' orientations to working with children with SEND. This framework prioritises holistic, context-sensitive approaches to inclusion and underscores the importance of humanizing education for refugees.

Bezug: https://www.mdpi.com/2076-0760/13/12/691

Goitse B. Ookeditse

Vocational Transition Challenges for Students with Disabilities in Botswana: Vocational Teachers' Perspectives

In the absence of appropriate transition planning practices to promote a smooth transition process, successful transition from vocational education to post-school settings can be particularly challenging for students with disabilities (SWDs). This study was conducted to explore vocational teachers' perceptions on challenges related to the effective implementation of transition supports and services for SWDs in Botswana. The study examined vocational teachers' knowledge of transition challenges, the influence of gender and teaching experience on vocational teachers' perceptions of transition challenges, and differences of vocational teachers' perceptions in two school regions. Among others, participants perceived that there was limited training of teachers, shortage of staff in schools, and limited funding to support the transition planning process. Generally, participants varied on the influence of gender and teaching experience on perceived transition challenges. Kgatleng region vocational teachers agreed more than their counterparts in Sout-East region that poor collaboration with external entities, unclear transition guidelines, and mismatch between vocational courses and employment goals negatively impacted the transition planning process. This calls for vocational schools to take deliberate action to devise strategies for bridging the disparities in participants' transition perceptions. Strategies include teachers' increased participation in professional development activities, increased collaborative efforts, and development of a legal framework on transition.

Bezug: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/21582440251344370

World Bank

A Sustainable Cities Strategy for Ghana: Greener, Resilient, More Inclusive, and Prosperous Urban Growth

How sustainable are Ghana's cities? This Strategy measures sustainability along three dimensions – the enabling Urban System, People & Economy, and Environment – each of which has four building blocks. This approach is premised on the idea that city systems (infrastructure, governance, institutions, etc.) must function well to deliver positive results for people, the economy, and the environment. Over the long term, these positive results should contribute towards more resilient, just, and competitive cities. The Strategy is underpinned by analytics that draw from Ghanaian data sources, such as the 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC), the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS), the District Performance Assessment Tool (DPAT), and national accounts, as well as from a significant body of research on urban issues by local academics and practitioners. Global data and studies were used to fill in knowledge gaps not covered by local data and research.

Bezug: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/e1341100-359a-45a3-87ad-ac5ac9aa7c46

Sébastian Jodoin/Amanda Bowie-Edwards/Katherine Lofts/et al.

A Systematic Analysis of Disability Inclusion in Domestic Climate Policies

The authors provide the first systematic analysis of whether, how, and to what extent people with disabilities and their human rights are included in two subsets of climate policies adopted by 195 parties to the Paris Agreement. They found that only 41 parties mention people with disabilities in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), whereas only 75 do so in their adaptation policies. Moreover, these references are rarely accompanied by concrete measures to include people with disabilities, their rights, or their knowledge in climate decision-making. The findings demonstrate that states are generally not abiding by their obligations to respect, protect, and fulfill the human rights of persons with disabilities under international and domestic law. This exposes people with disabilities to climate-related harm and reinforces, rather than disrupts, the inequities they face in societies around the world. It also fails to harness the multiple benefits associated with a disability-inclusive approach to climate action.

Bezug: https://www.nature.com/articles/s44168-025-00228-3

BOND DDG

Unequal Climate Justice for People with Disabilities: Insights and Evidence from Communities and Civil Society Organisations

This report, commissioned by the Bond Disability and Development Climate Working Group, draws on data from across members and partners globally to bring insight and practical guidance from a disability perspective. It unpacks the approaches needed to break down barriers, as well provide evidence-based recommendations for cooperative action across all sectors to bring about the transformational change needed.

Bezug: https://www.iddcconsortium.net/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2508_BOND-Disability_final_web.pdf

World Bank

Tajikistan Taking a Socially Inclusive Approach to Climate Change

This report provides a better understanding of ways in which to address the gender and social dimensions of climate change in key sectors of the Tajik economy. It focuses on the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups, particularly on women and girls, youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly. It also includes the subregions most at risk of the social impacts emerging as a result of climate change.

Bezug: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/909bd344-b043-476a-8a82-11c416412715

Peter Muraya

Adaptation in Adversity - The Impact of Drought on the Livelihood Adaptive Strategies of Refugee Youth with Physical Disabilities in Kakuma Refugee Camp

Climate change is increasing the frequency, intensity, and severity of droughts in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. This has an impact on the livelihoods of refugee youth with physical disabilities (RYWPDs), who have more limited livelihood options than other refugees due to their physical disability and who face significant social and infrastructural factors. However, to date, little attention has been paid to RYWPDs and their specific needs. To address this gap, this study explored the adaptation strategies of RYWPDs and the barriers they face, using a qualitative research approach. The results show RYWPDs to be active in adapting their livelihoods to drought, rather than passive recipients of aid.

Bezug: https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/adaptation-adversity-impact-drought-livelihood-adaptive-strategies-refugee-youth-physical-disabilities-kakuma-refugee-camp-working-paper-4-december-2024

UNFPA

Situation Analysis Report: Impact of the Earthquake on Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in Mandalay and Sagaing Regions, Myanmar

This report presents a rapid assessment of the profound impact of the 28 March 2025 earthquake on

Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and persons with disabilities in the Mandalay and Sagaing regions of Myanmar. The earthquake, a significant humanitarian event affecting over 17 million people across central Myanmar and resulting in substantial casualties, has disproportionately impacted persons with disabilities (PWDs). The findings underscore the critical challenges faced by OPDs in supporting their constituents amidst widespread infrastructure damage, loss of essential resources, and significant barriers to accessing humanitarian assistance. This report details the scope of the impact on OPDs and their members, assesses the multifaceted damage incurred, outlines the immediate and long-term needs identified, analyzes the current response landscape, and concludes with key recommendations for ensuring inclusive and targeted humanitarian action. The direct testimonies of affected individuals and OPD representatives, integrated throughout this report, serve to amplify their voices and underscore the urgent imperative for a disability-inclusive response.

Bezug: https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/situation-analysis-report-impact-earthquake-organisations-persons-disabilities-mandalay-and-sagaing-regions-myanmar

UN Women

30 Years of Beijing Platform for Action: An Intersectional Approach to Gender and Disability Inclusion

This policy paper is focused on diverse groups of socially marginalised women with diverse disabilities. It highlights how the 12 critical areas of concern from the Beijing Platform for Action have progressed or faced continuing entrenched barriers and dealt with new challenges in the 30 years since the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing. The focus is specifically on how gender inequality and disability exclusion both compound and create unique concerns for women and girls with disabilities. As they are not homogenous, this paper takes an intersectional approach, identifying the impacts for women and girls with disabilities facing numerous forms of discrimination while having different and multiple types of disabilities. Stereotypes and social and cultural norms are discussed in relation to stigma and discrimination. The paper also features the voices of diverse women leaders with diverse disabilities, with case studies from various low- and middle-income countries. The paper was produced as part of the development of the global report on accelerating disability inclusion in a diverse and changing world as well as a set of accompanying documents prepared for the Global Disability Summit 2025.

Bezug: https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2025/04/30-years-of-beijing-platform-for-action-an-intersectional-approach-to-gender-and-disability-inclusion

World Bank

Safeguarding the Rights of Women with Disabilities to Family Life, Work, and Protection from Gender-based Violence

Women with disabilities face additional barriers to their socioeconomic participation compared to men, with and without disabilities as well as to women without disabilities, resulting in significant employment gaps and high exposure to gender-based violence. Laws around the world largely fail to protect the rights of women with disabilities to non-discrimination, respect for family life, labour market inclusion, and a life free from violence. This brief analyses legal and policy data from 190 economies on the rights of women with disabilities and highlights promising practices where laws directly recognise and protect these needs, with the goal of informing policy reforms across the globe.

Bezug: https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/entities/publication/36159b77-d6fa-4a83-bd41-2dc401ee4ebf

UNICEF

Beyond Barriers: Advancing Research for Children with Disabilities

This comprehensive report highlights how we can move inclusion from the margins to the foundation of credible, ethical research. Drawing on UNICEF's 2025 global webinar series, Beyond Barriers, it captures key insights, persistent challenges, and significant opportunities to embed disability inclusion throughout the research process. It is especially valuable for researchers who have yet to mainstream disability inclusion into their work – providing actionable recommendations to help shift their approach and contribute to research that is ethical, inclusive, and impactful. The report also offers guidance for funders, policymakers, OPDs, and implementers working to transform how evidence is generated, used, and governed.

Bezug: https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/reports/beyond-barriers-advancing-research-children-disabilities

Tapson Mashanyare/Tendayi Clotilda Garutsa/Kiran Odhav

Challenges with the Disability Policy Framework in Zimbabwe: An In-Depth Qualitative Analysis of Perspectives of Youth with Disabilities

Although Zimbabwe has made significant progress regarding the development of a policy framework that caters to the needs of people with disabilities through various pieces of legislation, such as the Disabled Peoples Act (DPA), ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and adopting a new Constitution which has provisions for disability

rights, people with disabilities in Zimbabwe are yet to benefit from these policies, as they are not fully implemented. Most of the youth with disabilities lacked knowledge on the various policies regarding disabilities. This was attributed to poor implementation of such policies and a general negative attitude of society towards disability rights. Youth with disabilities are not fully benefiting from the current disability policies due to a lack of knowledge and some implementation gaps. The participants suggested full implementation of such policies and involvement of youth with disabilities in policy formulation and implementation.

Bezug: https://www.mdpi.com/2673-7272/5/2/41

The Maria Meiwati Widagdo/ Gusti Ayu Agung Indra Sari Putri/Bernadeta Dhaniswara Widyaningsih

Social Network of Urban and Rural Elderly with Disability in Indonesia

This study aimed to compare the social network between rural and urban elderly with disability. A total of 115 (55 rural and 60 urban) elderly with disability aged 60-95 years participated in this study. Rural elderly with disability are more involved in social networking. Results show that rural older people with disability have higher social networking than their urban counterparts. The findings that sociodemographic and geographic factors shape social network of elderly with disability emphasise the needs of social policies and community-based programs targeting urban elderly with disability, particularly women, those who are single or have lower education.

Bezug: https://proceedings.ums.ac.id/iseth/article/view/5544

UNICEF

Arts and Culture for Inclusion: A Systematic Review on Children with Disabilities

This systematic review by UNICEF Innocenti explores the role of arts- and culture-based programmes in promoting social inclusion for children with disabilities. Drawing on a comprehensive analysis of global evidence, the report examines interventions in dance, music, theatre, visual arts, cultural traditions, and other creative activities that foster participation, reduce stigma, and enhance well-being. The findings highlight the potential of these programmes to create inclusive environments where children with and without disabilities can engage, express themselves, and build meaningful social connections. While evidence gaps remain, particularly in low-income settings, humanitarian contexts, and underrepresented disability groups, the report underscores the promise of this approach and the need for further research and investment to expand its impact. This report serves as a valuable resource for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers seeking to leverage arts and culture for disability inclusion. It provides key insights into programme effectiveness, challenges in implementation, and recommendations for future research.

Bezug: https://www.unicef.org/innocenti/reports/arts-and-culture-inclusion

Inclusive Futures

Everyone's Game: A Toolkit for Advancing Disability Inclusion in Sport-based Life Skills Programming

This learning report presents six practical actions to help make identification and enrolment processes in education more inclusive of children with disabilities. Based on inclusive education projects in Nepal, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Kenya, and Tanzania, it draws from a mixed methods learning review to highlight what works. Aimed at education planners, implementers, donors, and inclusion-focused organisations, the report offers clear, actionable steps for ensuring no child is left behind in access to education.

Bezug: https://inclusivefutures.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Inclusive-Futures-finding-and-enrolling-children-with-disabilities-in-school-february-2025.pdf

Gabriele Weigt

Die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen in der deutschen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit

Diese Arbeit schließt eine inklusionspädagogische Forschungslücke, da zur Berücksichtigung von Menschen mit Behinderungen in der Entwicklungspolitik der Bundesrepublik Deutschland nur sehr wenig systematisches empirisches Wissen vorliegt. Die interdisziplinär angelegte Studie verknüpft die Politikwissenschaft mit der Forschung zum Thema Behinderung, um die Wechselwirkungen zwischen der staatlichen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit und der Lobbyarbeit zivilgesellschaftlicher Bewegungen zu untersuchen.

Im Ergebnis liegt erstmals eine detaillierte Diskursgeschichte der Anerkennung und Umsetzung eines menschenrechtlichen Ansatzes in der entwicklungspolitischen Diskussion Deutschlands vor. Gleichzeitig wird darin erkennbar, welche Bedeutung zivilgesellschaftlichen Organisationen zukommt, um das Thema Behinderung auf die entwicklungspolitische Agenda zu bringen und sich für eine wirkungsvolle Umsetzung zu engagieren. Es wird belegt, dass zivilgesellschaftliche Organisationen ‚machtvolle' Wirkungen erzeugen können, um ein politisches Handlungsfeld umzugestalten.

Bezug: https://www.waxmann.com/buecher/Die-Rechte-von-Menschen-mit-Behinderungen-in-der-deutschen-Entwicklungszusammenarbeit

Veranstaltungen/Events

04.11. – 06.11.2025

World Social Summit under the title Second World Summit for Social Development, Doha, Qatar

Information: https://social.desa.un.org/world-summit-2025/participate

Kontakt: socialsummitsecretariat@un.org

04.11. – 05-11-2025

13th Annual Disability Rights Conference, ”The African Disability Protocol: Promise and Challenges”, Pretoria, South Africa

Information: tba

Kontakt: disabilityconference@up.ac.za

Schwerpunktthemen kommender Ausgaben der Zeitschrift
Focal Topics of Upcoming Issues

2/2025
Umsetzung der UN-BRK/SDGs in Asien
Implementation of the UN CRPD/SDGs in Asia

3/2025
Umsetzung der UN-BRK/SDGs in Lateinamerika
Implementation of the UN CRPD/SDGs in Latin-America

1/2026
Der Global Disability Summit 2025 – ein Motor zum Handeln!?
The Global Disability Summit 2025 – a Catalyst for Action!?

Interessierte Autorinnen und Autoren mögen sich für nähere Informationen und unseren *Leitfaden für AutorInnen* bitte an die koordinierende Redakteurin Judith Langensiepen unter langensiepen@bezev.de wenden. Darüber hinaus sind Vorschläge für weitere Schwerpunktthemen willkommen unter info@inie-inid.org.
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Moreover, we welcome ideas and suggestions for future focal topics which you can submit to our editorship at info@inie-inid.org.

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	2/2025	3/2025	1/2026
Hauptbeiträge/Focal articles	01.03.2025	01.07.2025	01.01.2026
Kurzbeiträge/Other contributions	01.05.2025	01.09.2025	01.02.2026

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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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