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United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Disability





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What Is Disability?



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American with Disability Act (ADA) Definition:

- has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- has a record of such an impairment; or
- is regarded as having such an impairment.



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Prevalence of Disability

- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 10% of any given population has a disability with a higher incidence for countries that are post-conflict.
- It is estimated that 80% of the world's population who have some form of disability live within developing countries.
- In other words, of the estimated 600 million people worldwide who have a disability, 400 million live in the developing world.
- World Bank estimates that 20% of the world's poorest people have some form of disability.



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Disability and Development

- UNESCO estimates that 90% of children with disabilities do not attend schools
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) states that unemployment among the persons with disabilities is as high as 80% in some countries.
- Access to health insurance is often based upon employment status, so high rates of unemployment may deprive people with disabilities of insurance. For example, the IDRIM reports that 84% of people with disabilities do not have insurance benefits in Ecuador



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Disability and Development

- Many people with disabilities face involuntary institutionalization, resulting in some of the most blatant and abusive human rights violations imaginable.
- Women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse. A small 2004 survey in Orissa, India, found that virtually all of the women and girls with disabilities were beaten at home, 25% of women with intellectual disabilities had been raped and 6% of women with disabilities had been forcibly sterilized



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UN Convention

- Comprehensive human rights instrument with an explicit, social development dimension
- Adopted on 13 December 2006
- 118 Signatories and 7 ratifications
- 20 ratifications are needed for the Convention in order to enter into force



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Article 32- International Cooperation

- Countries are to provide development assistance in efforts by developing countries to put into practice the Convention
- Development assistance by donor agencies should be inclusive of people with disabilities



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USAID and Disability

“...the needs of PWDs [people with disabilities] are the same as the needs of other constituencies with whom USAID works. Segregation of PWDs in USAID activities would tend to increase discrimination among our ranks and in the countries we serve. Consistent with our participation efforts...to be effective, programs must be constructed to include PWDs at all stages of implementation.”



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Twin Track Approach to Disability

- Efforts to accelerate the inclusion of people with disabilities in development programming through USAID's disability policy, policy directives, technical assistance and awareness
- Recognizes the need to develop programs specifically designed for people with disabilities or to establish inclusive pilot projects through USAID's Disability Fund



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USAID Progress on Inclusion

A. Agency Policy

- USAID/General Notice Policy Paper 9/12/97
 - “pursue advocacy for, and inclusion of people with physical and mental disabilities to maximum extent feasible in the design and implementation of USAID programming.”
 - Described the importance of considering concerns of the disabled within ongoing and future programs.



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USAID Progress on Inclusion - Policy

- Standards for Accessibility in USAID-Financed Construction
 - Promotes principals of universal design
 - Use host-country or regional standards...ADA/ABA guidelines
 - Waiver process...with public notice
- Supporting USAID’s Disability Policy in Contracts, Grants, and Cooperative Agreements
 - “requires that contractor/recipient not discriminate against PWDs in the implementation of USAID programs and make every effort to comply with the objectives of USAID Disability Policy...actions must demonstrate a comprehensive and consistent approach for including men, women, and children with disabilities.



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USAID Progress on Inclusion

B. Institutional and Human Resource Development

1. USAID – “Self Improvement”

- E-Learning Course
- Agency hiring practices
- Staff Training
 - HQ Technical Assistance
 - Resource materials/tools

2. USAID Partners

(contractors, grantees, host governments, local organizations, etc.)

- Capacity Building
- Training and technical assistance
- Resource materials/tools
- Awareness Raising



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USAID Progress on Inclusion

C. Agency Commitment

- USAID Agency Disability Team
- Disability Coordinator relocated to a technical bureau
- Establishment of a Federal Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities
- Asked Missions to develop a Disability Plan and designate a disability focal point
- Encouraged the employment of people with disabilities in USAID offices and programs
- Have Missions and Offices report on their inclusive practices in the field which goes into biannual Disability Reports
- IWID Fellow dedicated to improving the implementation of the Disability Policy and identifying, documenting and sharing best practices



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Successful Approaches

- Vietnam: disability leading the way
 - Cross cutting approach
 - Lead other donors and government
- Uganda: inclusive development
 - Identify the barriers to participation
 - Work within existing USAID country strategy
 - Involvement of DPOs and Ugandan's with disabilities



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Continued Challenges

- Realizing nothing about us, without us
- Integration is not institutionalized
- Recognizing our own barriers
- Policy must be coupled with practice



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Disability Specific Programs

- Disability Funds
- Leahy War Victim Fund
- Displaced Children and Orphans Fund
- Victims of Torture Fund
- Wheelchairs



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Disability Funds

- Competitive process for programs for capacity building of DPOs and inclusion of people with disabilities in the political process
 - Programs in 11 countries provided through USAID Missions
 - 4 countries working on improving accessibility of elections
- Disability Capacity Building
 - MIUSA and AIR to build capacity of DPOs, NGOs and USAID Field Missions on inclusion of people with disabilities
- Future Funding through a similar request for concept papers through Missions



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Leahy War Victims Fund

- In 1989, congressional legislation established the Leahy War Victims Fund to provide physical rehabilitation to civilian victims of war and civilian strife
- The parameters of the fund's assistance have since expanded to include social and economic rehabilitative efforts as well as address broader sector of people with disabilities
- Current funding supports 27 countries



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Displaced Children and Orphans Fund

- Provides technical support to prevent child abandonment, address the needs of orphans, displaced and abandoned children and provide permanent homes through family reunification
- Children with disabilities are at increased risk for abandonment
- Eastern Europe- awareness raising and prevention for abandonment



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Victims of Torture

- Treats and rehabilitates torture-affected individuals

Wheelchairs

- Provides wheelchairs but also provides training and looks at broader rights issues such as access and employment



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What can be done to improve inclusion?





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- USAID?
- NGOs/DPOs and others?



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What can be done to improve inclusion?

- USAID
 - Partner with DPOs in the field and in headquarters
 - Hire people with disabilities as staff and interns
 - Provide training to staff on disability awareness and inclusion
 - Develop best practices for inclusion on a sector level
 - Include people with disabilities as part of the selection criteria for RFAs, RFPs, APSs, and other mechanism for funding
 - Disaggregate data by disability if possible
 - Ensure an inclusive setting at the USAID offices in the field



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- NGOs and Implementing partners
 - Partner with DPOs in the field and in headquarters
 - Demonstrate how people with disabilities will be integrated in USAID proposals and concept papers
 - Hire people with disabilities as staff and interns
 - Establish an inclusive policy within your organization
 - Provide training to staff on disability awareness and inclusion
 - Develop best practices for inclusion on a sector level
 - Monitor and Provide Feedback



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**For more information on USAID's
policies and programs visit:**

www.usaid.gov/about_usaid/disability