



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOVERNANCE

DISABILITY RIGHTS AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Of the estimated 1 billion people throughout the world who have a disability, 80 percent or more live in developing countries.

USAID AND DISABILITY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

USAID's Disability policy addresses the needs of people with disabilities in two ways: It states that USAID 1) will not discriminate against people with disabilities, and 2) will work to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in its programs and activities. The policy also calls on USAID missions to encourage in-country partners to lead a collaborative effort to end discrimination against, and promote equal opportunity for, people with disabilities.

USAID further institutionalized its commitment by passing two policy directives mandating that all new construction and major renovations be made accessible and that all requests or solicitations for funding clearly state how the programs support the USAID's Disability policy.

STRENGTHENING AGENCY RESPONSE

USAID recognizes that to build an inclusive development community its staff and partners must be equipped with the knowledge and tools to include people with disabilities in development programs. USAID's e-learning course on *Disability Inclusive Development*, available on the USAID web site, provides staff with training on topics such as misconceptions about disability, removing physical and social barriers, inclusive program design and monitoring and evaluating strategies.

In addition to offering the structured online course, USAID conducts internal and external disability-related workshops and orientation sessions. The Agency also provides field missions with technical assistance, tools and resources to develop and implement disability action plans.

USAID'S DISABILITY PROGRAM FUNDING

USAID has a small grants program to fund disability inclusive programming worldwide. This program provides funds directly to missions, encouraging them to include disability in all aspects of their programming. Projects work to reduce barriers that may limit people with disabilities' participation in society, community and family.

Since 2005, the Disability Program funding has supported more than 150 programs and activities in 65 countries working with a variety of organizations and implementing partners. Approximately half of these organizations are Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs). Programming areas span sectors to include democracy, human rights and governance, economic growth and trade, education, the environment, gender equality and women's empowerment and others.

Additional information on USAID's disability inclusive development programming can be found at <https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/democracy-human-rights-and-governance/protecting-human-rights/disability>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Robert Horvath, Empowerment and Inclusion (EI) Division
Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, DC 20523
Email: rhovath@usaid.gov
Tel: (202)712-5239