



Policy Paper

The Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Financing for Development

Recommendations

- Accessibility must be a key criterion in the mobilization and execution of domestic and international resources.
- Progressive increase of domestic and international resource execution is required to ensure access to necessary disability support services, including social protection schemes aimed at the full inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- ODA and other international public support for development should be strengthened to ensure enough resources for persons with disabilities.
- The impact of private finance should be closely monitored and assessed to ensure it creates improvements in the livelihoods prospects of persons with disabilities.
- Persons with disabilities should actively participate in the design, implementation, financing and monitoring of budget and fiscal policies.
- Disaggregation of administrative data by disability is necessary to achieve transparency and accountability.

Financing for Development, Persons with disabilities and the Post-2015

This paper provides recommendations for the Outcome Document of the **Third Conference on Financing for Development** (Addis Ababa, 13-16 July 2015).

Discrimination and exclusion faced by persons with disabilities worldwide is a human rights violation that necessitates action. In addition, there is evidence that the promotion of inclusive growth and development for persons with disabilities is beneficial from an **economic standpoint**.

Summary of the core recommendations to be included in the Outcome Document of the Third Conference on Financing for Development

- **Accessibility must be a key criterion in the mobilization and execution of domestic and international resources.** This will ensure access to services and infrastructures that are available to all from the start. Accessibility means avoiding the creation of barriers that will be expensive to dismantle later and that will prevent the effective use by all people of these services and infrastructures. *“Spend accessibly now, save money and benefit everyone”.*
- **Progressive increase of domestic and international resource execution is required to ensure access to necessary disability support services aimed at the inclusion of persons with disabilities** such as assistive devices, community-based services, **social protection schemes**, support for employment and self-employment. This will ensure country ownership and will help governments meet their agreed human rights commitments.
- **The impact of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and other private flows** should be closely monitored and assessed to ensure they create improvements in employment and livelihoods prospects for persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups, rather than further disadvantaging them. Also, there should be **effective regulatory and safeguard policies and redress mechanisms inclusive of and accessible for persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups.**
- **ODA and other international public support for development should be strengthened to ensure enough resources for persons with disabilities.**
- **A multi-stakeholder, people-centered and inclusive approach must refer to the right of persons with disabilities to participate** in the design, implementation, financing and monitoring of budget and fiscal policies. This will enable stronger accountability mechanisms to be put in place.
- **Disaggregation of administrative data by disability**, along with gender and age, is necessary to achieve transparency and accountability and make sure that financing for sustainable development reaches the most marginalized populations.

Background: Persons with Disabilities in the Post-2015 agenda

The Outcome Document of the Third Conference on Financing for Development should reflect and strengthen the commitment to persons with disabilities listed in the documents listed below and in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD, 2008).

In the post-2015 process the inclusion of persons with disabilities has been recognized as central to achieving sustainable development:

- the [Outcome Document of the Open Working Group](#) (OWG) includes nine references to disability/persons with disabilities in the Chapeau and in the areas of education, employment, accessible cities, inequalities and means of implementation/ disaggregation of data (proposed Goals 4, 8, 10, 11 and 17);
- the [Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing \(ICESDF\)](#) contains four references to disability/persons with disabilities in relation to the
 - link between poverty, vulnerability and disability as a specific dimension (Para 27);
 - need to adopt “a multi-stakeholder, people-centered and inclusive approach to achieve tangible results on the ground” that includes “persons with disabilities” (Para 61);
 - need to address “Structural vulnerabilities, which affect the poor and other socially excluded groups, women, persons with disabilities” (Para 79);
 - importance of “Expanding the scope and scale of financial services offered to the poor, older persons, women, persons with disabilities (...) to help achieve sustainable development objectives” (Para 90).

These references build in turn on the commitment of the [Monterrey Consensus](#) (2002) to “a fully inclusive and equitable global economic system” (Para 1) and of the [Doha Declaration](#) (2008), which includes a specific reference to the “greater efforts (...) required for mobilizing more resources, as appropriate, to provide universal access to basic economic and social infrastructure and inclusive social services, as well as capacity-building, taking special care of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities in order to enhance their social protection” (Para 13).

The importance of inclusion of persons with disabilities in development was also highlighted in the following documents:¹

- Report of the Secretary-General on the post-2015 agenda, *A life of dignity for all*;
- Outcome Document of the 2013 High-Level Meeting on Disability and Development;
- Rio +20 Outcome Document, *The future we want*.

¹ United Nations General Assembly, *The future we want*, 66/288, 2012; United Nations General Assembly, *Outcome document of the high level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: the way forward, a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond*, A/RES/68/3, 2013; Report of the Secretary-General, *A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015*, 2013.

Recommendations

This paper provides recommendations for the Outcome Document of the **Third Conference on Financing for Development** around selected issues from the six “Monterrey chapters”, namely:

1. Mobilizing domestic financial resources
2. Foreign Direct Investment and other international private flows
3. ODA and other international public support for development.

It also provides recommendations around two other issues related to governance and accountability: the right to participation of persons with disabilities and data collection.

The recommendations presented here are rooted in the principles and obligations framed in the UN CRPD with the understanding that, in order to create inclusive societies, inclusion must happen at all levels, including the financing of sustainable development.

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) call first and foremost for **public and private domestic and international finance to contribute to realizing the human rights of all persons with disabilities, as specified in the UN CRPD**. This implies ensuring the financing of both disability-specific services and disability-inclusive mainstream services, including social protection measures, healthcare and education aimed at the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

1. MOBILIZING AND EXECUTING DOMESTIC FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Effective mobilization and use of resources is about inclusion of persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups, not their exclusion.

Key recommendations:

- 1.1. Accessibility must be a key criterion in executing domestic financial resources. This will ensure that services and infrastructures are available for all. Accessibility means avoiding the creation of barriers that will be expensive to dismantle. *“Spend accessibly now, save money and benefit everyone”*. Accessibility is about how persons with disabilities can benefit equitably from budgeted public spending. Accessibility requirements should be ensured in public procurement guidelines and procedures.
 - *The OWG Outcome document refers specifically to persons with disabilities and their access to education, employment, and accessible cities.*
 - *The ICESDF report states that “Ultimately, the eradication of poverty requires sustained and inclusive growth and job creation” (Para 33), which imply redistributive policies to tackle inequality.*
- 1.2. Progressive increase of domestic resource execution is required to ensure access to necessary disability support services such as assistive devices, community-based services, social protection schemes, support for

employment and self-employment, among others. Today many low- and middle-income countries have very little and inadequately dedicated budget allocation. It is critical that investments in these specific measures always aim at inclusion and do not set up parallel, costly and ineffective specialized systems.

- 1.3.** Social protection for persons with disabilities and their families should be guaranteed as an essential mechanism for reducing poverty among vulnerable and marginalized populations. Adequate resources could be mobilized through increased tax-to-GDP ratios through progressive taxation.
- The Doha Declaration states that “(...) *greater efforts are required for mobilizing more resources, as appropriate, to provide universal access to basic economic and social infrastructure and inclusive social services, as well as capacity-building, taking special care of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities in order to enhance their social protection.*” (Para 13)

2. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE FLOWS

A much more balanced approach to private international finance is needed, recognizing risks and the need for developing countries to manage flows carefully.

Key recommendations:

- 2.1.** The effect of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups should be monitored and assessed to ensure that it has a positive impact. An initiative on responsible financing standards should be developed by the UN, pulling together and strengthening the various existing initiatives and proposals, to help ensure that standards are properly implemented.²

An initiative on responsible financing standards should consider the following points:

- 2.2.** Para 20 in the Monterrey Consensus states that Foreign direct investment (FDI) is particularly important for its potential to “create jobs and boost overall productivity”. FDI must create improvements in employment and livelihoods prospects for persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups rather than further disadvantaging these populations. The quality of FDI is more important than the quantity.
- Failure to employ people with disabilities costs money: a 2009 ILO study estimated that cost of excluding persons with disabilities from the labor force was 1-7% of GDP in 10 LMICs.³

- 2.3.** Public and private partnerships (PPPs) present a number of challenges and should be approached cautiously. PPPs should be considered only if other less expensive and risky financing options are not available. In many cases PPPs are the selected mechanisms to implement infrastructure projects.

² AFRODAD, EURODAD, JSAPMDD, LATINDAD, TWN, *UN Financing for Development negotiations: What Outcomes should be agreed in Addis Ababa in 2015?*, November 2014.

³ Buckup, S., *The price of exclusion: the economic consequences of excluding people with disabilities from the world of work*. Geneva: International Labour Office, 2009.

PPPs should only be chosen when accessibility is guaranteed. PPP contracts must be designed to ensure that services and infrastructures are available to all from the start.⁴

- 2.4. National action plans should include specific provisions for addressing the legal and practical barriers to access to remedy for persons with disabilities.

3. ODA AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT

ODA remains a critical resource, particularly for the poorest countries, but its value has been severely undermined by the failure of rich countries to meet the UN target to provide 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) as ODA and lack of progress on the Paris/Accra/Busan commitments on aid effectiveness to stop the bad practices that significantly undermine ODA.

*Key recommendations:*⁵

- 3.1. Set binding timetables to meet commitments to provide 0.7% of GNI as ODA.
- 3.2. Make sure that ODA represents genuine transfers, by ending aid tying, removing in-donor costs and debt relief, providing the majority of aid in the form of grants, and reforming concessional lending by reflecting the real cost of loans to partner countries.
- 3.3. Implement a levy on financial transactions carried out by finance firms and use the revenue to finance sustainable development.
- 3.4. Strengthened ODA and other international public support for development should include: (a) Accessibility as a key criterion in executing financial resources to ensure that services and infrastructures are available for all; (b) Progressive increase in resource allocation to ensure access to necessary disability support services such as assistive devices, community-based services, social protection schemes, support for employment and self-employment.

4. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Key recommendations:

- 4.1. The right to participation of persons with disabilities must be guaranteed in the design, implementation, financing and monitoring of budget and fiscal policies. This means creating accessible, inclusive, transparent participatory processes, including accessible information and increased accountability mechanisms and practices.
 - *This will contribute to the adoption of a “multi-stakeholder, people-centred and inclusive approach to achieve tangible results on the ground”, which*

⁴ AFRODAD, EURODAD, JSAPMDD, LATINDAD, TWN, *UN Financing for Development negotiations: What Outcomes should be agreed in Addis Ababa in 2015?*, November 2014.

⁵ *Ibid.* (Recommendations 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3)

is precept number 8 of the “Strategic Approach” presented in the report of the ICESDF (Para 61).

4.2. Data revolution: disaggregation of administrative data by disability, alongside gender and age, and data transparency will allow effective follow-up of expenditures allocated for accessibility or inclusion of persons with disabilities. These data should be in accessible formats.

- *This will ensure “transparency and accountability of financing at the national, regional and international levels”, which is precept number 9 of the “Strategic Approach” presented in the report of the ICESDF (Para 61).*