

Disability Inclusion Helpdesk

Evidence Digest
Issue 2, December 2019



Tommy Trenchard/Sightsavers 2016

Latest evidence

Here is a selection of the latest evidence on disability inclusion from programmes and researchers around the world:

Health: access and attitudes

[Access to health: the missing billion](#)

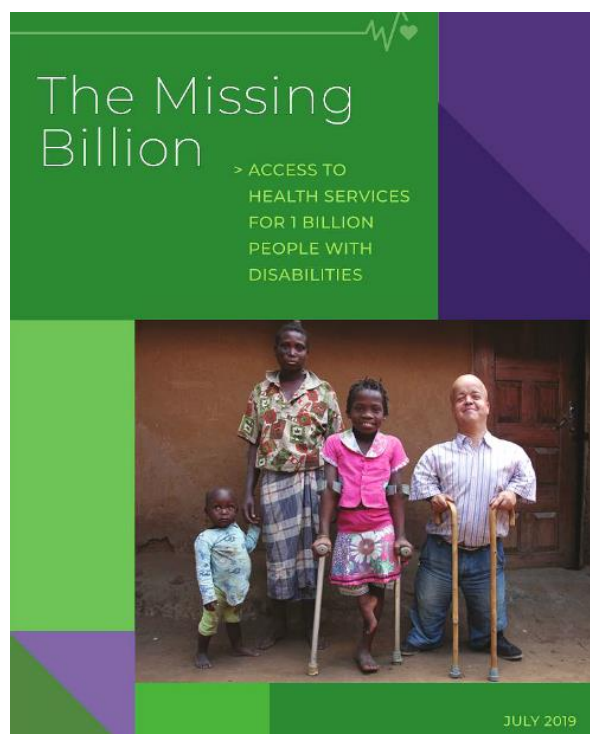
(July 2019)

A new report from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine's (LSHTM) International Centre for Evidence on Disability (ICED) draws together existing knowledge on access to health services for people with

disabilities. Existing evidence from multiple settings with people with different impairment types shows people with disabilities tend to have worse health access and outcomes than non-disabled counterparts. The report highlights that universal healthcare (UHC) and SDG 3 will not be attained unless people with disabilities are included. It outlines practical principles and recommendations, including the need for a twin-track approach and meaningful consultation with disabled people. It also includes suggestions to improve quality of services and address systemic barriers such as lack of data, budgets and limited accountability.

[Sexuality and disability for children and youth in China](#)

UNESCO recently published a book examining sexuality-related knowledge, attitudes and behaviour amongst children and youth with disabilities in urban and rural China. It is a mixed methods study involving a survey (n=707), focus groups and individual interviews. Key findings include: young people with disabilities tended to lack sexuality-related knowledge although a large majority recognised the need for information and access to services; less than half of those who reported being sexually active had used contraception the first time; children and youth reported experiencing sexual abuse; parents were generally positive about sex



Carlos Litulo and LSHTM

education for their disabled children; and sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services were limited for children and youth with disabilities.

Policy and programming analysis

[Analysing INGO practice](#) (September 2019)

The University of Washington recently reviewed the work of INGOs in relation to disability inclusion. The study, which included a survey and interviews, found four major barriers to disability inclusion for INGOs: lack of awareness, a belief in disability separate programming rather than a mainstream approach, an assumption that the costs of inclusion are too high, and believing that NGOs are not responsible for ensuring access and accommodations.

Country and thematic analysis

[Disability and technology](#)

In September 2019, GSMA published a study examining the mobile disability gap in refugee settings. The mixed methods research, funded by DFID, included a representative survey of refugees in Bidi Bidi refugee settlement in Uganda, Kiziba refugee camp in Rwanda, and urban refugees in Jordan. The survey used the Washington Group Questions (WGQs) to assess prevalence of disability amongst the refugee population. Two focus groups were conducted with refugees with disabilities in Uganda and Rwanda. Disability prevalence was between 15 and 25% amongst refugees, and there were sizeable differences in mobile phone access amongst disabled and non-disabled refugees in Rwanda and Uganda. There was no difference in access to mobile phones in Jordan. Barriers to mobile access for refugees with disabilities include access to charging stations, finding a mobile agent, limited literacy and digital literacy and cost. Benefits highlighted were: immediate access to information, entertainment, help and support, and connection with loved ones. The report makes a series of recommendations for humanitarian workers and mobile network operators.

Prevalence of disability within each context by refugee and host communities



GSMA Association, 2019

[Disability and inequality in Liberia](#) (July 2019)

Data from Liberia highlights differences in perceptions of inequality amongst disabled and non-disabled people in Liberia. A survey of 2020 people using a multidimensional wellbeing framework found that whilst Liberians with disabilities seem to be managing similarly to non-disabled Liberians in terms of income and education, many perceived inequalities in life satisfaction, access to transport, political participation and social inclusion. Interestingly, being head of a household appeared to be a protective factor in perceived inequality in relation to access to health and transport and political participation.

[Pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood in Nepal](#)

A small-scale qualitative study in Nepal examined societal attitudes and behaviours towards women with disabilities in relation to pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood. The study included focus groups and individual interviews and found negative attitudes, misconceptions, negative stereotyping existed. These included attitudes towards the marriage of women with disabilities, their ability to get pregnant, give birth and raise a child, and a common misconception that women with disabilities would pass on their impairments to their children. Study participants noted how women with disabilities can be discriminated against, rejected and excluded, as well as being subjected to violence in and outside the home.

[Violence against women and girls with disability in Nepal](#)

In 2018 the Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA), supported by Womankind funded project 'Strengthening the capacity and visibility of women with disabilities', carried out mixed method research and documentation on violence against women with disabilities in three rural districts in Nepal. Key findings highlight that

women with disabilities experience multiple forms of violence, including psychological, sexual, and physical violence while women with disabilities in Nepal face greater barriers in accessing and being supported to seek justice.

Policy and News

One year on from the Global Disability Summit, on 24th July 2018, DFID have released an [accountability report](#), a self-reporting survey reflecting on progress so far. The Impact Initiative also took a look at [what progress has been made](#) and published a piece by Cambridge scholar Nidhi Singal on [turning the Global Disability Summit promises into reality](#).

The UK House of Commons' International Development Committee (IDC) published [their inquiry report on DFID's work on disability-inclusive development](#) in July. Key recommendations included ensuring persons with disability are consulted on programme planning and delivery and that DFID develops a robust accountability mechanism to ensure momentum is maintained on delivering commitments.

Between 26th August and 20th September the [22nd session of the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\) took place](#). The committee considered reports from the following low and middle-income countries: El Salvador, India, Iraq, Kuwait and Myanmar. Read the statements and Country Reports [here](#).

The UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [published its findings](#) on the following countries which it examined during its latest session from 11th March to 5th April this year: Cuba, Niger, Norway, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Turkey, and Vanuatu.

Pakistan published a report outlining commitments made at the UK-hosted Global Disability Summit in 2018. [Read about more about their commitments and progress made thus far](#).

The International Centre for Evidence in Disability (ICED) hosted the 3rd International Conference on Disability and Development on

the 5th & 6th November at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). The conference brought together people with an interest in research and evidence from around the world to discuss and debate evidence in Disability Inclusive Development.

UNESCO held the International Forum on inclusion and equity in education in early September. The Global Education Monitoring Report [shares some key takeaways](#).

The United Nations launched their first ever [Disability Inclusion Strategy](#) (UNDIS) at the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD in June. The strategy aims to progress disability inclusion in all areas of the UN's work through promoting strategic planning and management, inclusiveness and improved organisational culture with regard to disability inclusion – monitored through a specifically developed accountability framework.

UNESCO released [a short clip on collaborative efforts to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities in Zimbabwe](#).

A [session on Promoting Disability Accessible and Inclusive WASH in Humanitarian Action](#) was held in August convened by the Finnish Water Forum, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland and UNICEF. It focused on approaches and entry points for accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in WASH humanitarian action. [Slides from the event have been made publicly available](#).

The Asia Pacific Social Protection Week, held in Manila in September, included a learning session on [Strengthening Advocacy for Social Protection Reforms that Promote Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities](#). Carolyn Dagani, president of the Philippine Federation of the Deaf, emphasised the importance of greater dialogue between social protection practitioners at all levels and disabled people's organisations (DPOs) to build truly inclusive social protection systems.

South Africa's Department of Trade and Industry [committed to ratifying the Marrakesh Treaty](#), making the production and international transfer of specially-adapted books for people with blindness or visual impairments easier. South Africa's current copyright law was enacted 41 years ago and has no provisions for people with disabilities.

Updates from DFID-funded programmes:

Disability Inclusive Development (DID) Programme

The Disability Inclusive Development (DID) programme aims to deliver tangible outcomes for people with disabilities including access to education, jobs and healthcare, to reduce stigma and discrimination and to encourage global actors to prioritise the issue. The programme is testing innovative approaches to disability inclusion to generate high-quality research to fill gaps and discover what works in this under-resourced area. It operates in six countries: Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, Nepal, Bangladesh and Jordan. The programme is led by Sightsavers in partnership with ADD International, BBC Media Action, BRAC, Institute of Development Studies (IDS), International Disability Alliance (IDA), Humanity & Inclusion, Leonard Cheshire Disability, Light for the World, Sense and Social Development Direct.

DID has kicked off six projects and completed one in the last few months, including innovation and scale interventions across livelihoods, education, negative stereotyping and discrimination, and health. These projects include:

- An education project in Nepal enhancing inclusive sexual and reproductive health rights livelihood opportunities of young persons with disability
- An education project in Tanzania developing a model of pre-primary and primary inclusive education
- A livelihoods project in Kenya linking micro and small businesses owned by persons with disability to established commercial enterprises

The programme took a bottom-up approach to design consulting with local stakeholders, including DPOs, through design workshops in the six countries.

Inclusion Works

In July 2019, DFID celebrated [the launch of Inclusion Works](#), a ground-breaking UK aid-funded programme to address the barriers that prevent millions of people with disabilities from accessing mainstream job markets.

The three-year programme will pilot new approaches that create job opportunities for over 2,000 people with disabilities in Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and Bangladesh whilst generating evidence about how to make it easier for people with disabilities to find formal employment. By working closely with DPOs, employers and national governments in each country, the programme ensures that people with disabilities are not left out.

The programme is led by Sightsavers in a consortium of 11 organisations: ADD International, BBC Media Action, Benetech, Development Initiatives, Humanity and Inclusion UK, Inclusion International, the International Disability Alliance, the Institute of Development Studies, Standard Chartered Bank and the Youth Career Initiative. Find out more [here](#).

The Disability Catalyst Programme

The Catalyst Programme aims to ensure people with disabilities can participate in society and enjoy equal opportunities. Through the Disability Rights Fund and its sister organisation the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRF/DRAF), the International Disability Alliance (IDA), and the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), the programme provides grants and technical support to DPOs advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities and establishes partnerships between UN agencies, governments and DPOs to accelerate disability inclusion.

In partnership with the DRF support has been provided to people with disabilities and DPOs in Ghana, Bangladesh, Uganda, Rwanda, Malawi, Burma, Indonesia, Pacific Island Countries and Haiti. The Fund offers technical support to build the capability of DPOs with more limited delivery

capacity. Summary information of the programme can be found [here](#).

Programme for Evidence to Inform Disability Action (PENDA)

PENDA is a major new project led by the International Centre for Evidence on Disability (ICED) and funded by DFID. The project aims to increase evidence to support disability inclusive development and will focus on developing people, knowledge and tools. The programme will primarily evaluate the question: What works in disability inclusive development? This will be the primary focus of the programme team, with support in country from DPOs. To help encourage new evidence and ways of thinking about disability inclusive development, a component of the programme hopes to engage new and existing researchers in the field, commissioning out further studies throughout the life of the programme.

Innovating Pathways for Employment Inclusion (IPEI)

Leonard Cheshire is leading the consortium to implement “Innovating Pathways for Employment Inclusion (IPEI)”, which aims to support people with disabilities to have equal access to waged employment in Kenya and Bangladesh. The consortium members of IPEI include: Leonard Cheshire, Bangladesh Business and Disability Network (BBDN), Action for the Disabled Network Kenya, CBM, European Disability Forum (EDF), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Plan International UK, International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Bank.

Disability Inclusion Helpdesk Roundup

The Helpdesk has produced a number of query responses on the following topics over the last few months:

- > Mental health and psychosocial support in Syria
- > Provided training on disability inclusion for DFID staff
- > Reviewed the best practice on disability inclusion in agriculture and among mobile-based interventions for smallholder farmers
- > Reviewed integration of disability inclusion in a DFID Ethiopia civil society strengthening programme

In the coming period the Helpdesk will be working on queries including:

- > Webinars and training sessions for select DFID cadres and networks, including the education and private sector cadre and the disability champions
- > Working with trailblazer programmes at the UK Prosperity Fund

WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE HELPDESK?

Send us an email and we can discuss your request further:

enquiries@disabilityinclusion.org.uk