



## Updates from International Day

The third Disability Inclusion Helpdesk digest summarises the major announcements, events and reports published on 3rd December 2019, International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD).

The **UK Department for International Development (DFID)** celebrated International Day with events and a video to mark the occasion:

- [Permanent Secretary Matthew Rycroft chaired an internal event to discuss disability inclusion in DFID](#). The panel discussion included Shirin Akhter from Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), Jane Kihungi from Women Challenged to Challenge (WCC), Sightsavers' Dominic Haslam and Tom Shakespeare from LSHTM
- Head of DFID Kenya Julius Court [reflected on progress towards disability inclusion in Kenya](#).
- [DFID Bangladesh met with DPOs, NGOs and the private sector](#) to discuss economic and social inclusion of persons with disability in Bangladesh.

The **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)** held [events focusing on new disability inclusion initiatives](#), including a spotlight event on 'sport for all for development and peace' with a range of speakers including representatives from the NYC Mayor's Office, Microsoft, Laureus Sport for Good, Football for Peace and others.



International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) Photo: United Nations

**UNICEF launched the [Accessible Digital Textbooks for All Initiative](#)** website in New York. The initiative aims to make textbooks available, affordable and accessible for children with disabilities in all contexts. [An emerging lessons report](#) provides guidance on developing accessible digital textbooks.

Amnesty International and the International Disability Alliance (IDA) launched **Amnesty International's report, [Excluded: Living with Disabilities in Yemen's armed conflict](#)**. The report examines the situation of people with disabilities in Yemen amidst the ongoing conflict. Findings show there has been a disproportionate impact on people with disabilities and highlights donors and the humanitarian community need to do more to ensure an inclusive humanitarian response.

A report presenting case studies on inclusive humanitarian action, [\*\*Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action: Case studies collection 2019\*\*](#), was published by IDA, CBM and Humanity and Inclusion. The report is designed to support uptake of the [\*\*IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action\*\*](#). It covers case studies from 20 countries, including on:

- inclusive disaster risk reduction and preparedness;
- collecting and using disability disaggregated data;
- participation of persons with disabilities and representative organisations;
- removing barriers to access humanitarian assistance and protection;
- influencing coordination mechanisms and resource mobilization to be inclusive.

A website for the [\*\*UN's 10 Principles Global Campaign on good treatment of girls, boys and adolescents with disabilities in the world\*\*](#) was launched by the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General on Disability and Accessibility on 4<sup>th</sup> December. Examples of the principles include "I like that you believe in me and help me grow" and "I like when you include me".

[\*\*Sightsavers passed its Equal World petition to UN under-secretary-general Ana Maria Menéndez\*\*](#) on International Day. The petition is part of Sightsavers' [\*\*Equal World campaign\*\*](#) which calls for the UN and its member states to ensure the rights of people with disabilities are upheld. The petition was launched in June, with calls in 14 countries to protect, defend and promote the rights of people with disabilities worldwide.

[\*\*The Institute of Development Studies held a seminar to celebrate International Day\*\*](#), including discussions on disaggregated data and research with Ghanaian carers of children with disabilities.

## Data and research

[\*\*A baseline report on education for deaf learners in Nepal\*\*](#) was published by the World Federation of the Deaf. The report reviews inclusive and equitable quality education through the medium of sign language for deaf learners in Nepal. The project was funded by DFID and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland through the International Disability Alliance.

[\*\*A report exploring advocacy for people with disabilities, focusing on regional implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and the CRPD\*\*](#) was published by the European Disability Forum with support from DFID. The report provides information on advocacy opportunities in different regions, including with the African Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

## Other updates and news

### Launch of IASC Guidelines

The [\*\*Inter Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) Guidelines Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities In Humanitarian Action\*\*](#) were officially launched in New York on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The guidelines set out essential actions that humanitarian actors must take to effectively identify and respond to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, who are most at risk of being left behind in humanitarian settings. The guidelines are designed for use by national, regional and international humanitarian actors who are involved in policymaking, coordination, programming and funding.

### Doha International Conference on Disability and Development

[\*\*The Doha International Conference on Disability and Development was\*\*](#) held between 7-8 December 2019 under the theme "Harnessing the Power of the Sustainable Development Agenda to Advance the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities." Attendees included the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; advisor of the presidential government for The Republic of Ecuador, Eddie Ndopu, the United Nations Secretary-General's Advocate for the SDGs and leading academic and policy experts in disability inclusion. The outcome of the conference is the "[\*\*Doha Declaration\*\*](#)", a core reference point for policy development on human rights and sustainable development in the context of disability.

### Making the Future of Work Conference

[\*\*The International Labour Organisation \(ILO\)\*\*](#)'s Global Business and Disability Network (GBDN) held its "Making the Future of Work inclusive of persons with disabilities" conference between 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November

2019, at the ILO headquarters in Geneva. The conference focused on discussing how companies can shape a world of work to fully harness the potential of persons with disabilities. The conference included sessions on artificial intelligence, targeted digital skills and leave no one behind. Fundación ONCE and the ILO [published a short report to connect different areas of debate.](#)

### **DFID Disability Inclusive Development (DID) Programme**

The programme has launched two new projects:

- A livelihoods initiative on vocational training and employment for youth with disabilities in Bangladesh using a modified model of BRAC's Skills Training for Advanced Resources (STAR) approach.
- A negative stereotyping and discrimination initiative using media in Nigeria, building on evidence on how to raise knowledge and awareness from BBC Media Action's radio drama programming in raising knowledge and awareness.

The programme has also now recently added Disability Inclusion Technical Adviser roles to support DFID to mainstream disability inclusion across all its work, as a commitment in the DFID Disability Inclusion Strategy published in December 2018. These positions will provide high quality advice and support to enhance DFID's programming and policy development

on inclusion of people with disabilities.

### **The DFID Disability Catalyst Programme**

As part of its Inclusive Education Flagship initiative (funded by the Catalyst Programme), [IDA and its members created a dedicated technical task team to provide an evidence-based DPO perspective to frame the implementation of SDG 4](#) (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) in compliance with CRPD Article 24. This is the first ever DPO led, evidence-based consensus on Article 24.

### **DFID Programme for Evidence to Inform Disability Action (PENDA)**

[PENDA is led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.](#) The programme will generate new evidence on what works in disability inclusive development. The PENDA consortium launching three [full-time studentship for two researchers with disabilities](#) to conduct research in Uganda, Zambia and another low or middle income country (LMIC).

PENDA is developing an online evidence portal that will centralise and improve accessibility to research on disability inclusive development. This will help inform policy makers on how to achieve disability inclusive development. You can help by filling in this [quick questionnaire](#) to identify what the key priorities are for the portal.

## **WANT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE HELPDESK?**

**If you are a DFID or HMG staff member send us an email and we can discuss your request further:**

[\*\*enquiries@disabilityinclusion.org.uk\*\*](mailto:enquiries@disabilityinclusion.org.uk)