Let’s make disability inclusion work . . .

...as an innovator

...as an implementer

...as a learning professional
Persons with disabilities are often left out of poverty reduction and development programmes. If they would be able to participate in such programmes, however, the vicious cycle of poverty and disability could be broken.

**Sustainable Development Goals**

*Leave No One Behind* is one of the key messages of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2015-2030. The SDGs’ aim is that no person - regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status - is denied universal human rights and basic economic opportunities.

**Inclusion is a right**

Over 165 countries have ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Persons with disabilities have a right to access health services, education, work and employment. There are even two articles that specifically address inclusion of persons with disabilities in international cooperation and in humanitarian activities.

**The inclusion challenge**

Despite the positive political climate for inclusion, the majority of persons with disabilities are often still left out of development initiatives, and are unable to benefit from economic progress. Negative attitudes towards them as well as barriers in the built environment and communication channels block their effective inclusion and equal participation in development programmes, public services and employment opportunities. In many countries, the UN convention still needs to be translated into rights-based policies and practical, feasible solutions that work in their specific context.

**Why disability inclusion?**

- 80% of the population worldwide live with a disability
- 15% of those live in developing countries
- 15% of those live in developing countries
- Disability increases the risk of poverty
- And poverty increases the risk of disability
The Disability Inclusion Lab was established by Light for the World as a space for NGOs, disabled people organisations, governments and businesses to come together to make disability inclusion work. Together, the stakeholders develop practical solutions to overcome the barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating equally in development and society.

Increasingly, organisations are willing to include persons with disabilities in their programmes, services, business or organisations because:

• they believe no one should be left behind in development initiatives;
• they want to have a sustainable impact on poverty reduction;
• they respect the rights of persons with disabilities;
• or they just believe that every body matters.

Whatever your reason to work on inclusion, the Lab can assist you to include persons with disabilities in your development programmes and business initiatives. Together we can make disability inclusive development a reality!

Disability Inclusion Lab

Count Me In is a practical guide about inclusion of persons with disabilities in development programmes. Make sure you get your own copy! Available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.
Let’s make disability inclusion work as an innovator

“We now embrace youth with disabilities. I can say we can now train persons with disabilities without any difficulties. I am touched when I see youth with disabilities walk in and request training. I feel confident about referring them to employers because I know they have the skills to work and I want to see them advance up to their level.”

A trainer at Technobrain Kenya

Do you want to innovate for inclusion in economic development? Are you eager to find solutions to overcome stubborn challenges that block participation of persons with disabilities? Are you a social entrepreneur looking for new business opportunities?

Join one of the innovation programmes on disability inclusion focused on:
- livelihood & food security;
- vocational training & employment;
- entrepreneurship & access to financial services;
- inclusive business & value chain development.

The Lab brings together different stakeholders and facilitates the innovation process by:
- creating a joint programme;
- developing and testing new solutions;
- enhancing capacities;
- developing tools and resources;
- documenting lessons learned;
- and lobbying and advocating for disability inclusion at national and international level.

In practice

Within the EmployAble programme, vocational training institutes, disabled people organisations, employers and local governments in Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda work together. Their goal is to include youth with disabilities in existing TVET programmes and support them in finding jobs. Implementation and learning go hand in hand. Challenges are identified and new solutions tested. This will result in a learning guide that can be used for upscaling or replication in other TVET programmes. The programme was recognised as a ‘Zero Project Innovative Practice 2016’.

…as an innovator
Let’s make disability inclusion work as an implementer

At the beginning I was sceptical about inclusion of persons with disabilities in the project, but now I know that with the right support they are able to participate. They were often more serious in performing their income-generating activities than the other participants.”

A programme manager from the FSUP programme in Bangladesh

Are you working for an NGO, government organisation or service provider that is willing to include persons with disabilities in its services and projects but lacks the required skills and capacities?

If your organisation is motivated to mainstream disability throughout all its structures and is seeking long-term collaboration to achieve this goal, then involving the Disability Inclusion Lab is a good option.

The Lab offers:

- joint proposal development, fundraising and project implementation;
- capacity building and learning on the job;
- access to tools, resources and learning networks;
- advice and training on disability inclusion at organisational level;
- and joint lobbying and advocacy.

In practice

Dutch development organisations ICCO, The Leprosy Mission and Light for the World cooperated with seven local organisations in Bangladesh in setting up a programme to improve the food security of 40,000 women headed households living in extreme poverty. This EU funded programme was designed to be inclusive, enabling persons with disabilities to participate on an equal level as persons without disabilities. Almost 4,000 women with disabilities (10%) successfully participated in the women groups and achieved the same results with their income generating activities as the women without disabilities.
Let’s make disability inclusion work as a learning professional

“I am working on a new project proposal in which we want to include persons with disabilities. This is a new area for us. The Inclusion Works! publication helped me a lot. It was exactly the kind of practical information I was looking for!”

A proposal writer from The Netherlands

Are you interested in learning more about disability inclusion in your project or service? Do you need practical skills to anchor disability at organisational level? Or you want a Training of Trainers programme on disability mainstreaming?

The Disability Inclusion Lab offers a wide range of services for individuals and organisations that want to be more disability inclusive. These include:

- tailor-made training on disability inclusion (disability equality training, inclusive projects, inclusive organisations);
- open-entry training on Disability Mainstreaming together with MDF training & consultancy;
- advice & guidance on disability audits, inclusive workplace development and inclusive programme design and implementation;
- Training of Trainers & curriculum development;
- practical tools and guidelines on disability mainstreaming in different sectors and at organisational level;
- facilitation of learning sessions and communities of practice.

In practice

“Light for the World and MDF Training & Consultancy have designed a very engaging learning process clarifying why persons with disabilities should be included in all development efforts, how it can be done, and what it takes to convince others to do it.”

A participant of the training

…as a learning professional
About Light for the World

Light for the World is an international development organisation whose vision is of an inclusive society where no one is left behind and all persons participate equally in the cultural, social, political and economic environment. Its mission is to contribute to a world in which persons with disabilities fully exercise their rights. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities guides us. Persons with disabilities living in poverty are amongst the most excluded groups in society. They are at the centre of our work and they drive the change.

Light for the World
c/o Disability Inclusion Lab
P.O. Box 672
3900 AR Veenendaal, The Netherlands

T +31 (0)318 - 58 63 58
E lab@light-for-the-world.org
I lab.light-for-the-world.org
Facebook facebook.com/disabilityinclusionlab
Twitter @lftwlab
LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/groups/8538440

Member of: