Making disability inclusion work

Activities and achievements in 2016
"At the training we were treated the same as non-disabled students. This friendship has helped me building trust with other people. After the training I got some temporary jobs, but today I am self employed as I expected, making bags and clothes and selling them."

**Solange Malayika, Rwanda**
*Self employed seamstress*

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**An exciting year**

Thank you for taking the time to read about the activities and achievements of the Disability Inclusion Lab in 2016.

The 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, these stakeholders develop practical solutions to overcome the barriers that prevent people with disabilities from participating equally in development and in society.

The year 2016 was our first year in operation and we are delighted to share with you our positive results in this inaugural annual report. Over the last twelve months, we have helped 10 brilliant partner organisations to make their organisations more disability inclusive.

The conditions for success have never been better: the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been ratified by more than 170 countries and the Sustainable Development Goals, which promise to ‘leave no-one behind’, are firmly in place. The Lab is ready to support you to include people with disabilities in your development programmes and business initiatives. Together we can make disability inclusive development a reality!
How the Disability Inclusion Lab works

The innovation zone is the heart of our ‘Change model’. We examine the root causes of problems with our target group and work on innovative solutions.

In joint programmes we work together with other development organisations on effective solutions for people with disabilities.

Through training and advice knowledge is shared with other organisations.

Through learning and sharing lessons learned are documented and proven methods are made available to a wide audience.

Through lobby and advocacy the interests of people with disabilities are represented in political bodies.

The five processes are interlinked and interact closely with each other. Findings from one process influence the activities in other processes.
The Change model
The EmployAble programme was awarded the ‘Zero Project Innovative Practice’.
Innovation zone

We implemented two programmes that focus on developing new solutions in collaboration with other organisations: the EmployAble programme in Ethiopia, Rwanda and Kenya, and the InBusiness programme in Kenya.

The EmployAble programme has been running from 2013-2016. Through the programme, a total of 448 students with disabilities have been enrolled in vocational training centres and many have transitioned to the labour market. To help achieve this, we brought disabled peoples organisations, TVETs, government and businesses together to learn together how best to arrange vocational training so that students with disabilities can access skills building activities and transition to employment. One of the key lessons we have learned is that internships and other work experience activities are crucial for both students with disabilities and employers to build an understanding of what working together is like. Throughout the programme, we collected data to deepen our shared understanding of how inclusion works. This data has informed a new model for inclusive vocational training and employment which will be published in April 2017. These learnings are already helping to shape other programmes on inclusive vocational training in Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan. The EmployAble programme has achieved external recognition, too. It received the ‘Zero Project Innovative Practice’ award in 2016.

The InBusiness programme focuses on inclusive micro-enterprises. As a first step or ‘prototype’ for a larger programme, we have helped train 20 entrepreneurs in Nakuru, Kenya. During this process, we learned that most of these individuals are operating their business at subsistence level. Our focus for 2017 will now be helping them to develop a group business and coaching them to create a better position in the value chain. We are working together with partners who are familiar with innovative programmes, namely BoPlnc and ProPortion foundation, as well as KENASVIT.
Joint programmes

This year five joint projects were implemented. Two of these projects focused on inclusive vocational training and employment, with Dorcas and Edukans in South Sudan, and with ZOA in Uganda. Both projects are funded by the European Union (total budget of 3.5 million euro), where in total 6,300 youth are targeted among which we aim to include 710 youth with disabilities.

Another programme in Uganda, focusing on the inclusion of the voice of people with disabilities at local governance level, was designed and started with NUDIPU, the national umbrella organisation of people with disabilities, and ADD International. The USAID granted $300,000 for this programme to equip councillors with disabilities to advocate effectively for their rights in three districts, where approximately 350,000 people live. The role of the Disability Inclusion Lab is to transfer knowledge on disability mainstreaming in local government planning processes to the local partners.

In Cambodia we partner with the Cambodian Red Cross in their road safety programme and are systematically addressing the inclusion of people with disabilities in all interventions. The Cambodian Red Cross works in all provinces and has tens of thousands of volunteers.

The fifth joint project is the 35 million EUR Strategic Partnership Convening and Convincing, led by ICCO and funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Light for the World works in Bangladesh, India, Ethiopia and Uganda to support this five-year programme with the aims of: raising awareness on disability among programme partners; linking programme partners with disabled people organisations; and providing practical support to include people with disabilities.
A teacher of an inclusive school in South Sudan is teaching sign language to one of the students.
Communicating for Advocacy workshop in Cambodia.
Training and advice

This year we have provided 29 trainings, workshops and advisory services to different development actors. Some of the highlights are:

- Training to Plan International ECCD staff & Plan International Mozambique programme staff on disability inclusive programming.
- Workshop for the Austrian Development Agency on disability inclusion in business development.
- Sensitization training on disability inclusion with staff of the North East Rural Livelihood Programme in India, a World Bank funded programme that reaches out to almost 300,000 beneficiaries.

Within Light for the World International we have delivered training and given advice to Light for the World Burkina Faso and Mozambique and to partner organisations in India and Bolivia.

"I went through the 'Count Me In' document. Loved it! I find it very clear and pedagogical. The introduction on disability touches on all key information in a simple way. Steps and practical experiences of disability inclusion are well explained with links to good resources/tools. Certainly a good resource to use for our work."

Anne Rouve Khiev
Coordination and Learning Unit Director, Partnering to Save Lives Cambodia

10 partner organisations have taken measurable steps to make their organisations more disability inclusive.

29 organisations have been trained or advised on disability inclusion.
Learning and sharing

This year we were able to translate ‘Count Me In’ into Portuguese for the Light for the World team in Mozambique. We now have ‘Count Me In’ available in 4 languages: English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

We developed several new publications, including an article in a peer-reviewed journal on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in UNCRPD monitoring systems, the first South Sudan sign language dictionary, and a report on sexuality education for women with intellectual disabilities in Ethiopia. In addition, we co-authored a chapter in the OCHA book ‘Together We Stand’, on the inclusion of marginalised groups in humanitarian aid work. These publications have consequently been used to advocate for, as well as spread knowledge on, the inclusion of persons with disabilities. For example, our report on sexuality education was used by Dutch parliament members to advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in sexual and reproductive health services.

We coordinated three learning platforms on disability inclusion bringing together a total of 45 organisations. We also coordinate an international Facebook group with over 1,000 members, where questions are raised and discussions are started among facilitators for disability inclusion. We send out a quarterly newsletter covering the latest news and findings with regards to the why, what and how of disability inclusion.

6 publications, guidelines or new training curricula developed showing evidence of the application of disability inclusion techniques.

45 organisations and institutions are involved in our various learnings platforms and have taken up and applied specific solutions developed by the Lab.
Learning on the job in Ethiopia with assistance of a sign language interpreter.
Advocating for disability inclusive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the UN in New York.
Lobby and advocacy

In 2016 The Netherlands finally ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). This is great news for disability inclusion within The Netherlands and it also has implications for international cooperation. For example, new development programmes financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) must not create new barriers for people with disabilities. While the implementation plan still needs to be elaborated, in the course of the year a number of steps have been taken in the areas of:

**Humanitarian aid**
MOFA hosted an expert meeting in cooperation with the Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development (DCDD), of which Light for the World is an active member. Humanitarian organisations as well as disability organisations were invited to share their experiences. The Netherlands then signed the ‘Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action’ during the World Humanitarian Summit and committed to take concrete action.

**Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**
Together with DCDD we spoke with the Dutch ambassador for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). The ambassador supported our plea for better accessibility of reproductive health services and shared this message with the embassies. In addition, we were involved in a special procedure in the Dutch parliament to address this gap in the current policy. Mrs. Ploumen, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, promised to report on the extent of inclusion of people with disabilities in the current SRHR programmes.

**Economic development**
Regarding food security Minister Ploumen promised to ensure inclusion of farmers with disabilities. Regarding employment opportunities she committed to support Dutch companies that operate in developing countries to make their working environment accessible.
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.

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Welcome aboard!

We welcome you to explore further what the Lab can do for you. Check out lab.light-for-the-world.org for current programmes, resources and training dates. Or sign up for our free newsletter.

Member of:

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