

AusAID: Development for All

Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program 2009–2014

Summary

Disability and the aid program

Development for All: Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program 2009–2014 sets out practical approaches to guide the Australian aid program in meeting the needs and priorities of people with disability. The strategy is aligned with the Australian Government's national social inclusion agenda and reflects the commitment to extending the benefits of development to all and to promoting the dignity and well-being of people with disability.

People with disability are often among the poorest, most vulnerable and excluded members of developing countries. The UN estimates that approximately 10 percent of the world's population, or around 650 million people, have a disability and about 80 percent of the population with a disability live in developing countries. Disability and impairment in Asia and the Pacific are expected to increase over the coming decades as a result of population growth, ageing, lifestyle diseases (such as diabetes), conflict, malnutrition, traffic accidents, injuries, HIV, and medical advances that preserve and prolong life.

The Development for All strategy responds to the reality that people with disability have often been excluded, even if unintentionally, in development processes and programs. The strategy has been developed through comprehensive consultations with people with disability and stakeholders in disability and development from across the Pacific, Asia and in Australia.

What we will do

The strategy's primary outcome is to support people with disability to improve the quality of their lives by better access to the same opportunities for participation, contribution, decision-making, and social and economic well-being as others. This will be achieved by supporting national governments' efforts towards disability-inclusive development, assisting Disabled People's Organisations to strengthen their capacity to become effective advocates in inclusive development, and building on existing investments in the education and infrastructure sectors of Australia's aid program towards improved access to education and the built environment.

While most resources available under the strategy will be directed towards improving the quality of lives of people with disability, reducing preventable impairments was also seen as a priority in consultations. Avoidable blindness and road safety have been identified as initial areas where, with careful investment, significant progress in reducing impairments can be made.

Leadership in disability and development will be strengthened by building the capacity of people with disability and their organisations—proven advocates for advancing the issues that affect them. Australia will also develop its own international leadership capacity in disability-inclusive development by modelling good practice, forging strategic partnerships to leverage action, and

through leadership in international forums to raise the profile of disability and development.

How we will work

How the aid program works is as important as what we do. In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we have identified six principles to guide AusAID's work. The overarching principle is to respect and value the contribution and perspectives of people with disability. People with disability will play an active and central role in our work, including in monitoring and evaluating our performance. In addition, we will promote the rights and respect the diversity of people with disability, take gender influences into account, focus on children and promote people-to-people links and partnerships.

Towards inclusive development

By including people with disability in the development process, recognising their potential, valuing and respecting their contributions and perspectives, honouring their dignity, and effectively responding to their needs, this strategy will be part of the Government's broader reorientation of the Australian aid program. Support for people with disability will also work to reduce poverty and hasten progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, designed to improve the well-being of the world's poorest people by 2015.