

## Bond Disability and Development Group

# Towards an Inclusive UK Development Policy: Recommendations from the Bond Disability and Development Group

### Purpose of paper

This paper makes practical recommendations on how DFID can accelerate disabled people's participation in development plans.

### Context

**One in five** of the world's poor are also disabled.

- 80% of disabled people (around 500 million people) live in the poorest countries of the world (UN)
- Only 1% to 2% of children with disabilities go to school in developing countries (UNESCO)
- 70% to 80% of adults with disabilities are without employment and live in extreme poverty (UN, ILO)
- Disability is not explicitly included in the Millennium Development Goals or most international and national poverty reduction plans.

Unless disability issues are stated clearly in development plans, disabled people will not benefit because of social, political and environmental exclusion.

### The Global Policy Framework

Several international and many national policy frameworks have been developed highlighting the need for mainstreaming disability. The most significant international framework is the UN **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**. Unlike most other human rights treaties the UNCRPD requires signatories to address the needs and rights of disabled people within their **international cooperation** work. The UK Government ratified the UNCRPD in 2009 and as such, the contents apply directly to DFID. Two articles are of particular importance:

**Article 11** ... all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

**Article 32**...ensuring that international co-operation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities

### DfID & Disability

DfID has made great strides in recent years towards prioritising disability issues. DfID's 2007 "*How-to Note*" on *Working on Disability in Country Programmes* stated: "Disability [is] at the very heart of what we do".

However, it is not clear to what extent DfID has mainstreamed disability within its aid programmes and how it is implementing its obligations under the UNCRPD.

No action plan has been agreed and disability is once again absent from the 2009 White Paper "*Eliminating World Poverty*".

Furthermore, with the recent squeeze on core funding the internal capacity of DfID has been significantly undermined with the loss of a Disability and Development specialist position.

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It is clear that DfID will fail to deliver on its own “*How To Note*” commitments and the broader objectives of the 2009 White Paper unless these issues are addressed comprehensively. DfID has a responsibility, and now a legal obligation under the UNCRPD, to ensure its aid effort does not actively exclude disabled children and adults. This requires a properly resourced, proactive and targeted approach to inclusion, with clear indicators to measure and report progress.

### **Recommendations**

DfID should:

- ✓ adopt a coherent plan of action to guide the implementation of disability mainstreaming work
- ✓ make a public policy commitment to the inclusion of disability within international co-operation
- ✓ develop clear monitoring and effective data collection on disability issues
- ✓ **actively** adopt and promote the social model of disability across all of its programmes, offices and partnerships.

To achieve this, we believe DfID must:

- ✓ Increase internal capacity to be able to respond to the support needs of staff and partners as they endeavour to implement disability mainstreaming
- ✓ Ensure there is a named and trained disability contact person in each DfID country office responsible for implementation of the “*how to note*” and UNCRPD obligations
- ✓ Increase funding to enable disability mainstreaming to be implemented effectively
- ✓ Equip staff and partners with the required skills to ensure appropriate inclusive support costs<sup>2</sup> are provided within all initiatives, in keeping with the principles of the UNCRPD.

### **About the DDG**

The Disability and Development Group (DDG) exists to support international NGOs and donors to more effectively include disabled people in all development work. The DDG derives its mandate from the 50 UK-based international development organisations which constitute its membership.

### **For further contact and resources**

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[www.IncludeEverybody.org](http://www.IncludeEverybody.org) Disability and The Millennium Development Goals

[www.asksource.info](http://www.asksource.info) International Resource Centre on Health & Disability

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<sup>2</sup> This refers to any funding made available to cover the cost of personal assistants, advocates, sign language interpreters or modification / adaptation of printed materials necessary for the inclusion of disabled people