

## **Mainstreaming persons with Disabilities in World Bank policies and programmes at all levels.**

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Persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population, over one billion—80% of whom live in developing countries. They frequently experience discrimination and face barriers to participation in all aspects of society – for example, in accessing education, employment, health care and transportation. Some persons with disabilities face multiple barriers to their participation, due to discrimination on the basis of other grounds, including race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, property, birth and age.<sup>1</sup> As a result, persons with disabilities are at a high risk of poverty, which in itself increases the likelihood of having a disability.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its *Optional Protocol* (OP) provide the normative framework for Member States to address the rights of persons with disabilities and to ensure that they are included in all development efforts. The Convention is a legally-binding international treaty that comprehensively clarifies the human rights of persons with disabilities as well as the corresponding obligations on States Parties. It has an explicit, socio-economic development dimension that recognizes the importance of development to the full realization of the rights in the CRPD, and the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts to implement the CRPD (article 32). Its principles and provisions need to be translated into the everyday planning and implementation processes of the World Bank Country Teams that should help Member States to implement their commitments.

### **How should disability issues be addressed in the environmental and social assessment process?**

**Mainstreaming Disability in the World Bank's country analysis.** It is instrumental in positioning disability rights in the review of country analytic work. It requires engaging with country partners to assess the World Bank country Teams comparative advantages in promoting disability rights; reviewing the quality of country analytic work, in relation to the standards set in The Convention on Rights of persons with Disabilities, Millennium Declaration and other internationally agreed development goals and treaty obligations, and its potential to include disability rights; including disability rights in a fully-fledged process to develop a Common Country Assessment, when the World Bank country Teams and partners decide that there are few existing high quality analysis and that planned exercises are not sufficiently analytical. The World Bank has executed partnership trust fund for analytical studies and technical assistance. These should include Disability issues in terms of assessing the impact of various projects on persons with Disabilities. A Multi-Donor Trust Fund has been set up in Uganda to fund various activities related to the Joint Budget Support Framework, including funding of a Technical Assistance and Support Unit. The Fund can also support participation of persons with Disabilities in the budget processes at all levels. However there is also a need for establishment of the Multi Donor Trust fund to support mainstreaming persons with Disabilities in World Bank projects and programmes through building the capacity of Disabled Peoples' organizations at country levels to hold governments and stakeholders accountable.

The Bank's analytical and advisory activities in Uganda underpin investment operations and sector strategies, and inform the government's reform path. Recent analytical work includes a series of Public Expenditure Reviews focused on education (FY08), health (FY09), and roads (FY10). The reports Public Finance Management in Uganda -- a Platform Approach (2008) with an assessment of fiscal decentralization, and the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Report (2009) have been critical in informing the reform agenda in public financial management. Such studies should also be able to inform governments on the best practices and measures to improve welfare and participation of persons with disabilities.

**Using the World Bank cooperation at country level to mainstream Disability issues in all programmes.** This calls for positioning disability rights in the World Bank Country Assistance and Partnership strategy Roadmap thinking and process; map the national planning process, timelines, key actors, and their agendas, which can be influential in mainstreaming disability rights; lay out the steps and milestones for the World Bank country Teams' contribution to country analysis, Country Assistance Strategy and Country assistance partnership preparation, and

M&E, where persons with disabilities should be included in a consultative process; decide how best to organize available resources and the work of the World Bank country teams to Mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the World Bank Country Assistance and Partnership development process.

On May 25, 2010, the World Bank Board of Executive Directors discussed a new [Country Partnership Strategy](#) (CPS) to support Uganda. Hinging upon four pillars, this new strategy will support government efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth; enhance public infrastructure; strengthen human capital development; and improve good governance and value for money. It is estimated that during the CPS period, the IDA will commit approximately US\$2 billion to support development projects and programs in Uganda. This country Partnership Strategy should respond to the needs of persons with Disabilities.

Key priorities over the CPS period, in addition to continued support for national projects and regional integration in the transport and energy sectors, include the continuation of the poverty reduction support credit series with focus on improving efficiency and value for money in delivery of core services, a [Municipal Infrastructure Project](#) to improve management and accountability of thirteen secondary cities to support urbanization, and a [Water Development and Management Project](#) to finance investments in water support and sanitation, including several of the cities included in the Municipal Infrastructure Project. The above projects in Uganda are not complying with the Convention on Rights of persons with Disabilities and do not indicate whether persons with disabilities are beneficiaries. The analytical and advisory services to be undertaken to support the government to address challenges in the medium to long term include analytical work on how to make Uganda's growth inclusive, just-in-time policy notes on petroleum-related subjects and a Country Water Assistance Strategy to identify areas for interventions and reduce water-related vulnerability. Disability issues should be mainstreamed in terms of assessing their accessibility. Future Public Expenditure Reviews will focus on public investment financing and decentralized service delivery.

**Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Strategic planning.** This will make it possible to highlight the disability dimensions of development problems, through the prioritization exercise, in order to determine if disability rights should become a priority and outcome in the World Bank Country Assistance and Partnership Strategy; indicate how capacity development needs for action on disability rights will be addressed, including data collection and analysis, assessment and planning; provide inputs on disability rights to the World Bank Country Assistance preparation, including the draft World Bank Country Assistance Strategy Results Matrix and M&E Framework; influence the preparation of agency programmes and projects, and their work Planning.

**Mainstreaming Persons with Disabilities in World Bank Country Assistance Strategy.** This will enable to track progress, through monitoring, towards the results agreed in the World Bank Country Assistance Strategy, and help to make mid-term corrections; identify any new capacity development needs of partners in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities into national or sectoral plans and policies; take advantage of mainstreaming opportunities and move towards disability inclusive Programming, through the World Bank Country Assistance strategy annual review process. By mainstreaming disability rights in their work at country level, The World Bank Country Teams can respond to the request of persons with disabilities themselves, who have been calling for a new approach to disability, grounded on the conviction that all persons should be equally valued: an approach focusing on the need to adapt society so as to enable (rather than disable) people with impairments.

**What aspects and recommendations of the World Development Report could be reflected in the safeguard policies?**

Disability Statistics and data.

**How would the Bank's use of country systems affect issues related to disability?**

Answered in the first responses above.

**What are areas outside the safeguards that the World Bank should consider and address?**

Expanding Social Protection and Building social protection Infrastructures in developing countries like Uganda.