

Development for All Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program 2009–2014

CORE OUTCOMES

1 Improved quality of life for people with disability

Focused and targeted

- > Comprehensive support for partner governments' efforts towards disability-inclusive development (in two countries initially)

Targeted sectoral focus across all country programs

- > inclusive education and accessible infrastructure

Disability-specific initiatives

- > capacity development of disabled peoples' organisations

Flexible support mechanisms for all countries

- > NGO agreements, volunteers, research, leadership awards and scholarships, sports and small grants

2 Reduced preventable impairments

Preventable impairment-specific initiatives

- > **Avoidable Blindness Initiative** to reduce the incidence of preventable blindness and improve the quality of life for people with low vision and blindness

- > **Road Safety** to reduce the incidence of traffic accidents that lead to death and disability and to relieve the humanitarian, social and economic burden of this global health issue

3 Effective leadership on disability and development

- > support leadership of people with disability
- > model good practice in disability inclusive development
- > forge strategic partnerships to leverage action
- > build political and senior agency leadership in regional and international forums
- > strong Australian advocacy to increase the priority on disability and development

ENABLING OUTCOMES

4 AusAID skilled and confident in disability-inclusive development

- > strengthen AusAID's capacity to successfully promote, manage and monitor disability-inclusive development as a central aspect of Australia's aid program
- > ensure AusAID is an open, accessible and inclusive organisation

5 Improved understanding of disability and development

- > build strategic partnerships to strengthen efforts to capture robust quantitative and qualitative data on disability, poverty and development with a strong focus on the lived experiences of people with disability
- > strengthen knowledge management, coordination, dissemination, accessibility and application

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1 Active central role by people with disability:** Promote and enable active participation and contributions by people with disability.
- 2 Recognise and respect rights:** People with disability hold the same rights as others.
- 3 Respect and understand diversity:** The lived experiences and perspectives of people with disability are diverse, and effective approaches for improving outcomes will vary in different contexts. Better understanding of the lived experience of people with disability will help break down the attitudes that create and reinforce disability, and build respect for diversity.

- 4 Take into account the interaction of gender and disability:** Inequality and multiple forms of discrimination may be experienced by men and women, girls and boys who are people with disability, family members and carers.

- 5 Focus on children:** Children with disability face major barriers to enjoying the same rights and freedoms as their peers and may often face greater risks of abuse.

- 6 Support people-people links and promote partnerships:** The combined commitment, influence and experience of Disabled People's Organisations, government, civil society, faith-based and Non-Government Organisations, education and training institutions and the private sector will ensure effective development inclusive of people with disability.

More information on disability and development in the aid program is available on line at www.ausaid.gov.au

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Australian Government
AusAID



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School children learning sign language at the Fiji School of the Deaf. Alternative forms of communication can play a significant role in opening doors to education and employment.
Photo: Rob Maccoll, AusAID

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.



With new eyes
Usha was blinded by cataract until recent surgery. Now she says, ‘I am very happy to see again! I don’t need to be led. I can walk on my own. I can take care of the household and my children.’
Photo: India, Phil Lam, CBM/ADDC

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.



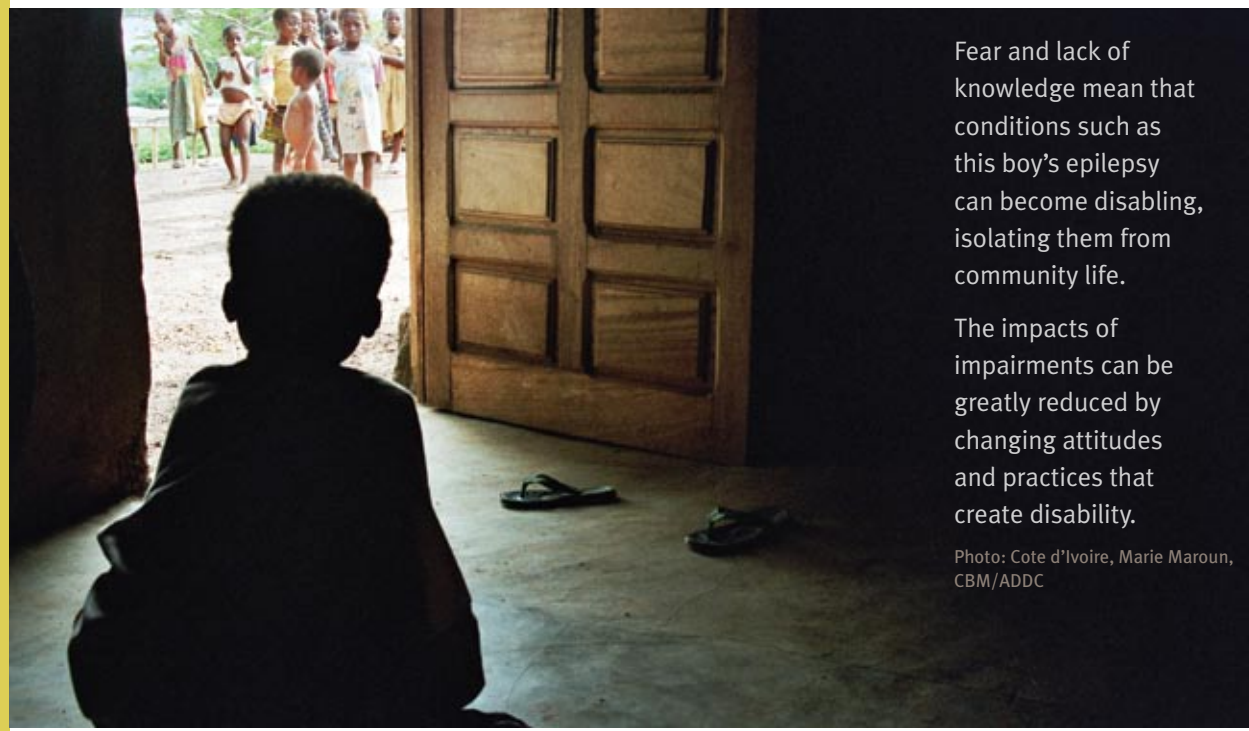
Mobility can be challenging in many environments, but communities can take responsibility to include people with disability and support their needs. With the help of Senta Bilong Helpim volunteers this boy and others get the therapy they need and a chance to get out of their homes.
Photo: PNG, Rocky Roe, AusAID/ADDC

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.



Fear and lack of knowledge mean that conditions such as this boy’s epilepsy can become disabling, isolating them from community life. The impacts of impairments can be greatly reduced by changing attitudes and practices that create disability.
Photo: Cote d’Ivoire, Marie Maroun, CBM/ADDC

‘People with disability have a right to basic services and equal access to education and employment. I want to see our programs increasing opportunities for people with disability to take part in economic and social development.’

The Parliamentary Secretary for International Development Assistance, Bob McMullan MP