SID-WASHINGTON PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING GENDER & INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT WORKGROUP EVENT:

Putting disability inclusion at the center of our work

Friday, April 10, 2020
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM | Panel Discussion
Online via Zoom

Join the Conversation
@sidwashington | #SIDWLive
ABOUT THE EVENT

Approximately 15% of the world’s population experiences some form of disability, and an estimated 80% of those people live in developing countries. Various governments, bilateral donors, and international organizations have enacted a range of policies, conventions, and agreements—from the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ratified by 181 countries; to disability discrimination laws and constitutional provisions adopted by over 40 countries; to specific disability policies established by the world’s largest development funders, including USAID, DFID, DFAT, and the World Bank. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development states that disability cannot be a reason or criteria for lack of access to development programming and the realization of human rights. While these policy advancements indicate an emphasis on disability rights in development agendas, there is relatively minimal programming dedicated to disability, let alone effective mainstreaming of disability and inclusion. During this panel discussion, we will cover key questions—how do we increase dialogue between leaders in the disability rights space and the larger development community? How do we mainstream disability inclusion in development agendas? What steps can development practitioners take to improve inclusion at the project, corporate, and donor-levels?

This event is part of our Series on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

Moderator
Jerry Mindes | Senior Adviser, Leonard Cheshire Disability/DC

Jerry Mindes is a Senior Adviser to Leonard Cheshire Disability/DC, a UK-based non-profit active in 13 countries in Africa and Asia. Over the course of his career in international development, he’s been the Managing Director for International Development for the American Institutes for Research (AIR); a Chief of Party with AIR of a USAID funded project to demonstrate how to make development assistance inclusive of people with disabilities; the head of Strategic Business Development for the International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES) and the architect and manager of IFES’ signature global initiative to enfranchise people with disabilities. He was also the founding coordinator of the International Working Group for Disability and Development (1997-2002), which led a global advocacy effort to make the Education for All campaign more disability inclusive. Before beginning his career in international development, Mr. Mindes worked as an advocate and policy specialist on US-based programs for individuals with disabilities.

Speaker
Carolyn Alesbury | Basic Education Advisor, Save the Children

Carolyn Alesbury is a Basic Education Advisor at Save the Children US, a global focal point for inclusive education at Save the Children International, and co-lead of the Education Equity Research Initiative’s Disability Task Team. In her nearly ten years at Save the Children, Carolyn has helped advance the agency’s focus on inclusive education, developing key strategic documents, as well as the USAID-funded SNAP (Student Needs Action Pack) tools, which guides teachers through adapting their pedagogical approaches to meet individual learners’ needs. Carolyn has previously worked as a middle school special education paraprofessional in Massachusetts, holds an MSc in Human Rights from the London School of Economics and an MEd with a focus on special education from Lesley University, and is currently working on an EdD in Education Policy at George Washington University.

Speaker
Jahan Ara Begum Hena | President, Women with Disability Development Association (WDDA)

As a disabled person’s organization (DPO) leader in Bangladesh, Jahan Hena—who lost her vision at the age of 12—works to improve conditions for disabled persons, especially women with disabilities. Currently, she is President of the Women with Disability Development Association (WDDA) as well as the General Secretary of Alliance of the Urban DPO’s in Chittagong (AUDC) and a member of the District Disability Rights and Protection Act 2013 committee. She is also the focal person of the Inclusion Works Project supported by Young Power in Social Action YPSA and Action on Disability Development (ADD). She holds a master’s degree in Islamic History and Culture from the National University of Bangladesh.

Speaker
Kathy Guernsey | Agency Disability Rights Coordinator, USAID/DCHA/DRG

As USAID’s Disability Rights Coordinator, Katherine is responsible for advising the Agency on disability inclusion at both the program and policy levels, and manages the Agency’s Disability Program Fund. In this capacity, she is working to promote U.S. development assistance that recognizes and respects persons with disabilities and their representative organizations as not only development beneficiaries on an equal basis with others, but as partners in the design, implementation, and evaluation of projects that impact the lives of the world’s one billion persons with disabilities.

Katherine is a public international lawyer who has dedicated her career to the field of human rights, with an emphasis on disability inclusive development and diplomacy. Much of her work has focused on enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to effectively formulate and implement disability inclusive policies and practices. She was extensively involved in negotiation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), working alongside both governmental and non-governmental delegations. She has authored numerous publications associated with the treaty and international disability law and policy.

From 2010-2017, she served as Senior Policy Advisor to the Special Advisor for International Disability Rights, Judith Heumann, at the U.S. Department of State, promoting disability inclusive diplomacy as a priority in U.S. foreign policy. Katherine received her Master of Laws in international and comparative law and policy from The George Washington University Law School, and her Juris Doctorate and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degrees from Ohio Northern University.
Ruby Holmes is an Inclusive Governance Technical Advisor at Humanity & Inclusion, where she provides support to HI field teams, civil society and government representatives to promote participation, inclusion and accountability at all levels within public disability governance. Activities within the Inclusive Governance unit are divided into three thematic sections: inclusive policies & inclusive development, support to civil society & advocacy and citizenship & political participation. Ruby has a MA from American University’s School of International Service where she focused on the inclusion of persons with disabilities throughout peacebuilding processes. She was previously a Program Coordinator at Mobility International USA, where she coordinated a variety of international development and exchange programs for persons with disabilities. Through this role, Ruby gained extensive experience training external non-governmental, university and governmental actors on national and international disability policy and reasonable accommodations. Ruby worked temporarily at HI US in 2017, where she supported the livelihood unit to write HI’s White Paper for the Harkin Summit on inclusive employment.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Youth Crime and Violence Prevention: Strategies that Work?**
Workgroup Event | Online via Zoom | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Consulting 101**
Network Event | Online via Zoom | 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Please note that we frequently add new events to our calendar, so please sign up for our newsletter to get the latest information. To register for our upcoming events, check out our website.