

# POLICIES AND RESOURCES: A WORLD PERSPECTIVE

Diane Richler

Inclusion International

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# PERSPECTIVE:

*A Way of Seeing Things*



# Inclusion International's Millennium Development Goals:

Vision and Targets for 2015

# Eradicate Extreme Poverty For People with Disabilities and their Families:

By 2015, people with intellectual disabilities and their families will live free of poverty and discrimination

# Poverty and Intellectual Disability: Some Global Facts

- It is estimated that as many as 1 in 5 of the poorest people have a disability
- 26 million people with intellectual disabilities and their families are among those living on less than \$1 a day.
- For others, individual and household incomes fall well below the poverty line

# Poverty and Intellectual Disability: Some National Facts

- Brazil: disabled workers earn 45% less than non-disabled workers
- Moldova: 1/3 households that have a child with disabilities fall into the lowest-income quintile.
- Romania: households with children with disabilities have 65 % per capita income
- Hungary: household income with child with disability is 79% average household income.

# Poverty and Intellectual Disability: Some National Facts

- Estonia: households with disabled members aged 0 to 24 years of age have incomes that are 84% income
- MENA: Over 70% of adults with disabilities are unemployed or out of the labour force, in some countries almost 100%
- El Salvador: approx. 98% people with disabilities are unemployed

# Poverty and Intellectual Disability: Some National Facts

- Canada: over 70% of working age adults with intellectual disabilities are either unemployed or not in the labour force
- Europe: 78% of people with severe disabilities age 16-64 are outside the labour force, compared to 27% without disabilities.

# Cost of Disability Borne by individuals and Families

- Un-reimbursed costs of care-giving, health care, medication, technical aids and devices
- Largest un-reimbursed cost is care-giving provided by families
- Reliance on families leads to ill health, lost opportunity to earn income, increased family debt



Extra Costs of Disability

+

Inability to Work

=

Poverty and Debt  
(UK Study)



# Key causes of poverty of people with disabilities and their families

- exclusion from education, appropriate health care and employment opportunities
- loss of income due to care giving responsibilities
- additional costs associated with disability
- 'discrimination by association' of families who have a member with a disability, resulting in fragile social networks & exclusion




# Achieve Inclusive Education:

By 2015, all children with intellectual disabilities will receive good quality, inclusive education with appropriate supports to ensure that each child reaches their highest potential




# Barriers to Inclusive Education

- Fewer than 5% in majority countries now completing primary education
- Exclusion starts early (ECE)
- Mandated exclusion



# Promote Gender Equality for Women with Disabilities:

By 2015, social, economic and political discrimination against women and girls who have a disability and their mothers will be eradicated



# Evidence of Gender Inequality

- Labour market participation rates in all regions, and all countries
  - Eg. Morocco: 18% vs. 4%
  - Libya: 31% vs. 5%
- Responsibility for care
- Blame for disability
- Vulnerability and sexual abuse (40-70%)



# Reduce the Mortality of Children with Disabilities:

By 2015, the mortality rate of children who are born with a disability or become disabled in the early years will be reduced by two thirds



# Achieve the Rights of Children and Families:

By 2015,

- the rights of children with disabilities will be respected;
- mothers will receive adequate pre- and post-natal health care;
- families will get the help they need



# Combat HIV/AIDS:

By 2015, the spread of HIV/AIDS in the community of people who have a disability will begin to be reversed and children with disabilities who have been orphaned will be supported and cared for in the community

# Key Issues Regarding HIV/AIDS

- Prevalence rate
- Existing outreach strategies to educate people with disabilities about HIV/AIDS
- Impact of multiple discrimination on person with a disability living with HIV/AIDS
- Children with disabilities orphaned by AIDS



# Ensure Environmental Sustainability:

By 2020, achieve significant improvement in the lives of people who have an intellectual disability and their families who live in extreme poverty



# Develop a *Global Partnership for Development*:

By 2015, global efforts to promote good governance and global partnerships will contribute to the human rights of people with intellectual disabilities, including citizenship and economic rights



# What Have We Learned?

The link between Poverty and Disability is Social Exclusion:

- Poverty is not only about money it is about being excluded
- Limited access to education, health care and vocational training plus undervaluing of abilities means fewer opportunities to work or be a part of the community
- Increased medical and disability related costs impact on families and individuals
- Responsibility of care-giving falls disproportionately on women
- Day to day needs of "getting by" result in fewer informal supports

# Africa

- Cultural and social conception of disability
- Extreme poverty and exclusion further marginalizes people with disabilities and their families
- Development Assistance ignores disability (eg HIV/AIDs, Education etc.)
- Poverty Reduction Strategies do not effectively engage civil society
- Civil society (especially family organizations) do not have the capacity to contribute effectively to decision making processes that impact on poverty

# Europe

- Significant exclusion of people with intellectual disabilities and their families in both east and west
- Poor attention to intellectual disability within social inclusion agenda
- Little or no attention to the role of families within policy development
- Failures of the welfare state in the west?
- *Social Protection* framework fails to promote inclusion & contributes to exclusion
- Transition to market economies has systemic implications for exclusion:
  - Dysfunctional labour markets
  - Need for pension reform
  - Need for social assistance programmes
  - Post conflict environment
  - Social exclusion



# MENA

- Social conception of disability based on medical model and social misconceptions
- Intellectual disability higher numbers than other disabilities - less awareness
- Family based organizations largely controlled by professionals
- Conditions of political unrest foster exclusion of vulnerable groups
- Difficult environment for CSOs to promote human rights
- Enormous economic inequality within nations and within region
- Extremely important role of family has been both an asset to inclusion and a detriment
- Displaced and immigrant populations

# ASIA PACIFIC

- Enormous region with very different political and economic contexts (India, China ...)
- Disability organizations have developed strategies at the regional level with support from UNESCAP to promote poverty reduction
- People with intellectual disabilities and family organizations in the region are not included in the regional process

# The Americas

*"Listening to families helps us to understand that poverty does not affect only individuals but poverty is systemic human issue affecting families, communities and nations."* Dr. Roberto Leal, Executive Director, Inclusion Inter-Americana.

- Poverty is about exclusion (across all the MDG areas)
- Structural causes (extreme and relative poverty)
- Development Model
- Cultural Attitudes (About Disability)
- Inclusion and recognition of rights is not deeply rooted (new democracies)

# Hope for the Future

The Convention on the Rights of Persons  
with a Disability offers:

A Human Rights Framework

AND

An Opportunity for Development

# Comparing Perspectives

WHO Atlas	Inclusion International
Service and resources	Poverty and MDG's
Special Disability Programs	Generic/mainstream programs
What exists	What's missing

# Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

A Common Way  
Forward:

Implications for the  
WHO



# Preamble: Families

...the family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State



# Right to Life: Article 10

States Parties reaffirm that every human being has the inherent right to life and shall take all necessary measures to ensure its effective enjoyment by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.



# Right to Legal Capacity: Article 12

- persons with disabilities enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others
- access by persons with disabilities to the support in exercising legal capacity
- appropriate and effective safeguards to prevent abuse

# Liberty and Security of the Person: Article 14

Enjoy the right to liberty and  
security of person

# Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: Article 15

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his or her free consent to medical or scientific experimentation

# Protecting the integrity of the person: Article 17

Every person with disabilities has a right to respect for his or her physical and mental integrity on an equal basis with others.

# Living independently and being included in the community : Article 19

Right to choose their place of  
residence and where and with whom  
they live



# Right to Health: Article 25

Right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination

# Next Steps: Identifying Areas for Action

1. Comparable data on disability for each Millennium Development Goal
2. Develop tools for governments and civil societies to participate in policy development and implementation that takes into account issue facing people with disabilities and their families (CRPD)
3. Develop monitoring mechanisms for each of the MDGs to measure and evaluate impact on disability
4. Create capacity to link knowledge and expertise of people with disabilities, their families and organizations to decision-making processes

[www.inclusion-international.org](http://www.inclusion-international.org)

