Let's enable the MDG’s FACTSHEET

Facts on Disability (source: World Health Organization)

Over a billion people live with some form of disability. This corresponds to about 15% of the world’s population.

Disability affects vulnerable populations disproportionately. Disability is more common among women, ethnic minorities, older people and children and adults who live in poverty.

People with disabilities are disproportionately affected by poverty. People with disabilities have worse living conditions—including insufficient food, poor housing, lack of access to safe water and sanitation—than non-disabled people.

One out of five people living in extreme poverty has a disability.

People with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed than non-disabled people. Global data show that only half of the disabled men (53%) and only one fifth of the disabled women (20%) are employed.

People with disabilities often do not receive the necessary health care. Half of people with disabilities cannot afford health care. They are four times more likely to report being treated badly and nearly three times more likely to be denied health care.

These negative outcomes for persons with disabilities are mainly caused by other people’s negative attitudes and ignorance. These attitudes must be challenged and can be overcome. Disability is a human rights issue. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) promotes, protects and ensures human rights for all people with disabilities.
What can projects do?

- Involve people with disabilities; in the planning process and as beneficiaries of mainstream activities.
- Collaborate with Disabled People Organization (DPOs): DPOs can assist in and advise on making projects accessible for people with disabilities.
- Include DPOs, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) projects and disability NGOs in your network. They can support and give assistance if necessary.
- Increase the awareness and understanding on disability among staff.

What can you do?

- Ask the projects you support about their policy and practice regarding people with disabilities, and encourage them to include people with disabilities in their work.
- Visit our website and take action: www.endexclusion.eu
- Join us on Facebook
- Follow us on Twitter

Disability and Education: Belayinesh’s story

Born with cerebral palsy in a small town in rural Ethiopia, Belayinesh was unable to walk or even sit until she was eight years old. Fortunately, she was discovered by Siltanu, a rehabilitation worker from Light for the World who used parallel wooden bars and then crutches to train her to use her legs. After two years of rehabilitation, Belayinesh can now walk unaided to school. This has brought her freedom and independence. For her proud mother, Belayinesh’s future has opened up: “My daughter has so many possibilities now”.

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