



Photo Credit: Gideon Mendel / Leonard Cheshire Disability

## 1 in 5 of the world's poorest people is disabled.

The economic and social exclusion of persons with disabilities is due to a multitude of barriers which limit their access to education, employment, housing, transportation, health care and rehabilitation. **The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) could help break down these barriers.** Each goal has a fundamental link to disability and none of them can be achieved without taking persons with disabilities, their rights, their access and their inclusion into account. Despite this **the MDGs do not refer to persons with disabilities.**

Without including disability in plans for tackling poverty the MDGs stand little chance of success. Disability is currently not included in indicators and targets set for the MDGs and disabled people are often excluded from international and national poverty reduction plans.

Find out more at [www.IncludeEverybody.org](http://www.IncludeEverybody.org) a new web site initiative of the International Disability and Development Consortium and the Millennium Campaign.

**“As the world strives to achieve the MDGs it is important that disability is not treated as a left over.”**

Peter Obeng Asamo ( Director, Ghana Association of the Blind)



Transport is just one barrier disabled people face when trying to access healthcare, education and services, but one that must be overcome if everyone is to have a chance of a better life, as 38 year-old Harold Chishiko from Zambia explains: "I've just had my second cataract operation to restore my eyesight. It's hard for me to get to the hospital, but some volunteers picked me up with my wheel chair and took me there. My wife and two children passed away, but I still have 5 children to care for. I need to be able to continue my work as a teacher to support my other children."

(Photo Credit: Kerstin Hacker/Sightsavers International)

## Act Now On the MDGs and Disability

At the halfway point of the MDGs, it is crucial for governments, donors, international agencies and civil society to address disability poverty through the implementation of genuinely **inclusive development strategies**:

- Ratify and implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and fulfil all commitments towards inclusive development
- Recognise disability as a cross cutting issue within international development in line with Article 32 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- Support the collection of accurate and reliable disability data in partner countries in order to monitor inclusion
- Ensure the participation and involvement of disabled people, their organisations and civil society in MDG-related policy and decision making processes

A New Resource on Disability and Development  
[www.IncludeEverybody.org](http://www.IncludeEverybody.org)

**About Us:** The International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), founded in 1994, is a global consortium of currently 23 non-governmental organisations supporting disability and development work in more than 100 countries around the world.



For more information about IDDC, its member organisations and our work to promote inclusive development, please contact us on [info@iddcconsortium.net](mailto:info@iddcconsortium.net) or log onto our website [www.iddcconsortium.net](http://www.iddcconsortium.net)

