

Together for Inclusion

Photo Exhibition - Brussels, February and March 2018

In 2017, organisers of the European Disability and Development Week (EDDW)* launched a photograph contest to challenge attitudinal barriers towards person with disabilities.

After much discussion, it was the picture of Aicha and her friends that won first prize. This 'in the moment' shot shows inclusion at it most natural best and yes, because it also makes us happy! -the photographer is Marta Moreiras.

The 10 pictures chosen show persons with disabilities finding ways to manifest a right to education, work, culture, leisure, friendship and community. They were printed and displayed in an exhibition entitled Together for Inclusion in the Mundo-J building in Brussels during the months of February and March 2018.

*EDDW is coordinated by the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), and takes place from 3 December (International Day of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) until 10 December (International Day for Human Rights). The aims of EDDW are awareness raising among the European Union (EU) and its Member States regarding the rights of persons with disabilities; promoting the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD); and reinforcing the linkages between the CRPD and international frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Photo of three of the winning EDDW pictures on display during the Together for Inclusion photo exhibition in Brussels in February and March 2018.



Photo by Marta Moreiras

Aicha, a child with albinism hugs and plays with her friends in the playground of her school in Bissau.

Aicha (8) has a visual impairment as well as a very delicate skin, but this doesn't stop her from playing and having fun with her friends during recess at school. She is very integrated within her group of classmates, she has lots of friends and she has a very extroverted character. She is very participative.

The power of this picture is in the pure joy and excitement of a group of children playing together. Aicha's own character comes through very clearly. She herself does not seem to see or notice any difference between herself and her friends, that's fantastic! The best way to show inclusion is with a natural moment as this one, where children are playing altogether without any concern.

Aicha participates in the Integrated Project on Inclusive Education, Protection and Early Detection of Disabilities that Handicap International has been implementing in Guinea-Bissau.

Marta Moreiras



Photo by Bart Lont (Light for the World)

The picture was taken in Rwanda.

Jean Pierre has his own barbershop. His own business is going well. Because he has polio, he regularly suffers from his back and pain in his leg. Taking a break is then necessary to continue working afterwards.

Bart Lont (Light for the World)



Photo by Philippa Wynne (Deaf Child Worldwide)

Dora (23) has a hearing impairment. Growing up, she could not communicate, therefore did not go to school and had nobody to talk to. Our partner in India, LIPICA (LIPCA-Lower Income People's Involvement for Community Action) provided Indian Sign Language (ISL), literacy and tailoring training to Dora and ISL to her mother.

Dora's literacy and vocational skills have now improved. She can communicate with her family and people within her community.

Dora said in our interview at February 2017, "I like my sign language a lot. Before I could not talk. The shopkeepers and my neighbours learnt and can use basic sign language, so they now come to me and tell me what clothes they want buy from me. I can do anything I want."

Philippa Wynne (Deaf Child Worldwide)



Photo by Sylvia Kimambo (CCBRT)

Tabitha is studying with her classmates and friends for the last exam of the school year, which was for her civics class. As you might know, politics in Tanzania is a very passionate topic, so I'm sure they were having a healthy discussion!

Sylvia Kimambo (CCBRT – Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania)



Photo by Marc Espin

A civil war ex-combatant in El Salvador, Lucio Rodas Velásquez (63), takes a break in his job as foreman in the cornfield.

The war stole the leg of Lucio, who lives in San Carlos (a little rural town from El Salvador), but it provided him with education. He took classes in the mountains and passed the third grade tests in Cuba where he stayed to recover from his injuries. “I read and write at a snail’s pace but I am able to”, he says with pride. When the war ended, he had to replace the pen with the machete to support his family. His disability never prevented him from working in the cornfield. The doctor has prohibited him from working but he insists on does it. “I really like it”, he explains. Lucio refuses to rest at home doing nothing or being a dependent person.

Marc Espin



Photo by Veronica Riva Palacio (CEIAC)

Explora los Sentimientos is a campsite for children with visual disabilities in which they explore different activities to discover that they can break any kind of limit. In this picture, closed to Cascada de Cusarare (México), we can see three boys with different visual impairments, one of them with no disabilities, walking and sharing experiences with their friends.

Veronica Riva Palacio (CEIAC – Centro de Estudios para Invidentes)



Photo by Hasmik Tonapetyan (Armenian Caritas)

Sasha with his special pedagogue Asya is taking care of herbs at the Emili Aregak Center in Armenia.

Youth working in the herbal gardening project will also produce certain herbs that will be sold in the first Inclusive Coffee Shop in Gyumri, Armenia which will be realized in the framework of the “First Inclusive Bakery and Coffee Shop in Gyumri” project implemented by Armenian Caritas, supported by the European Union, Caritas Austria and Austrian Development Cooperation.

Hasmik Tonapetyan (Armenian Caritas)



Photo by Alvaro Blanco Palanques

I think this photo reflects how a person can continue doing and enjoying their hobbies. He has found a way to play the videogame even though he cannot move his body as a consequence of a motorbike accident.

Alvaro Blanco Palanques



Photo by Kendrah Jespersen (Mission East)

“My abilities surpass my disability!”

During a first aid course that took place within a Mission East-led disaster risk reduction project in mountainous, disaster-prone communities of Nepal, one local school teacher with a disability was determined to demonstrate his new skills. Because he one of his hands was paralysed, the trainers suggested he did not need to participate in the final exam. He insisted on doing the practical exercises anyway, and although it was challenging for him, he passed the course – with pride and dignity.

Kendrah Jespersen (Mission East)



Photo by Korneliusz Konsek

In some countries, the transition to family-based care takes longer. This picture was taken in 2015 in Gorodishte in Belarus. For several years, the Catholic Church in Belarus has been organising a Christmas concert before the New Year's evening for the children and youth; including songs, dances, quizzes and, of course, Christmas gifts prepared by our volunteers of the parish in Baranovitshi. One of the highlights of this event is the fairy dance of Tatiana and Svieta. This photo was taken just before their appearance. Svieta and Tania had practiced a lot and perform their fairy dance already a few years with a great success!

Korneliusz Konsek