

Call to invest in disability-inclusive education

More than 32 million children with disabilities in low and middle income countries (LMIC) countries are out of school and denied an education.

Those children with disabilities who do make it to school are mainly in segregated settings, generally receiving a poor quality education that leaves them shut out from their community and unable to pursue a decent livelihood.

The impact is devastating, not just for tens of millions children and their families, but also for whole societies and their economies.

As the #CostingEquity report highlights, this systematic neglect of children with disabilities is one of the most glaring oversights both in domestic and international education financing. Greater investment is needed to redress the neglect of the past and accelerate system-wide changes that embrace inclusion and the provision of support to meet the individual needs of learners with disabilities.

Our commitment

We are committed to ensuring disability-inclusive education; making education for children with disabilities a top priority.

Our commitment is to reinforce our internal capacity to deliver disability-inclusive education and elevate the voices, strengths and positive contributions of persons with disabilities.

We will collect programmatic data to inform the development of quality interventions and respond to the data gap that currently exists. We offer our support to governments and donors on the journey to realising the right to inclusive education for girls and boys with disabilities by sharing knowledge and good practices.

Our call to action

We cannot do this alone and **call on donors and governments** to significantly step up action and show their commitment to deliver on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals to 'leave no-one behind'.

We call on donors (bilateral, multilateral and private foundations) to:

1. **Make disability-inclusiveness a necessary criterion for accessing funding for all education programmes/projects.** This requires specific budgets and programme allocations, disability indicators related to beneficiaries (disaggregated by type of disability and other demographic markers) and adapted materials and infrastructure.
2. **Increase financial contributions to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE)** to fulfil Goal 2 of the GPE Strategic Plan 2020, of increased equity, gender equality and inclusion for all in a full cycle of quality education, **targeting the poorest and most marginalized, including children with disabilities.**
3. Ensure that **humanitarian response plans, appeal mechanisms and needs assessments adequately make provision for children with disabilities** and ensure preferential action. The Education Cannot Wait fund should promote disability inclusiveness in its disbursement criteria.
4. **Build internal capacity on disability-inclusive education among staff** by appointing technical experts and focal persons in teams on headquarter and country level and providing mandatory training for all education staff.
5. Develop a disability policy and action plan with indicators in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Regularly produce and review data on education funding, disaggregated by levels of education, disability and other equity markers.
6. **Invest in building the capacity of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), parent organisations and civil society organisations working in disability-inclusive education** to hold governments accountable and participate meaningfully in education sector planning processes.

We call on governments to:

1. **Allocate at least 6% of GDP and 20% of national budgets to education.** Allocation and use of existing resources must be in accordance with General Comment no. 4 on Article 24 of the UNCRPD (2016) by investing in system-wide reform alongside addressing disability-specific needs.
2. **Develop and review resource and implement disability-inclusive education policies, plans and strategies, which align** with the General Comment on Article 24 of the UNCRPD (2016) and which respond appropriately to the scale and diverse needs of learners with disabilities. Indicators to measure progress, accountability mechanisms and a coordination mechanism for multi-sectoral collaboration must be put in place.
3. **Prioritise early childhood development for children with disabilities, including developing professional skills and community-based approaches to early intervention.** This must include strengthening early detection and intervention services to eliminate or reduce the disabling effects of impairment.

4. **Invest in improving data and evidence** on disability-inclusive education by using the Washington Group/UNICEF Module on Child Functioning for population surveys and the UNICEF Inclusive Education Management and Information Systems guide.
5. **Engage in strategic partnerships** with NGOs, DPOs and parent organisations to overcome gaps in capacity. **Embrace transparency and participation of civil society** in developing policies, plans, budgeting and implementation.
6. **Adopt targeted strategies and put in place social protection mechanisms (e.g. support grants for poor families) to address the multiple disadvantage** faced by children with disabilities who, for example, are girls, orphans, come from pastoralist and/or migrant families, and live in remote rural regions or slums /informal settlements.

The call for action is endorsed by



UNESCO.no

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Den norske UNESCO-kommisjonen
Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UNESCO Chair "Transforming the Lives of People with Disabilities, their Families and Communities, Through Physical Education, Sport, Recreation and Fitness"



Protecting Children. Providing Solutions.



global support to disabled people



Islamic Relief Worldwide



LA DOULEUR N'EST PAS UNE FATALITE



NAD - The Norwegian Association of Disabled



FAWE Forum for African Women Educationalists Forum des éducatrices africaines



221 Signatories

AbleChildAfrica
Action to the Community Development Center (ACDC)
Addis Development Vision (ADV)
ADD International
ADPP
ADRA Austria
Adult Learning Australia
africa action / Deutschland e. V.
Agência de Colaboração em Descentralização e Desenvolvimento Local (AGECAP)
AG Globale Verantwortung
Aid for Social Protection Program Foundation Vietnam (AFV)
Aide et Action
A-Kasa Foundation
Amigos de los niños excepcionales Tarija (ANET)
ANC EFA
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Entwicklung und Politik
ASADEC
Associação EsMaBaMa
Asociación Cruceña de Ayuda al Impedido (ACAI)
Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI)
Association of Early Childhood Development in Malawi (AECDM)
Australian Disability and Development Consortium (ADDC)
Autism Swaziland
Ayninakuna
Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation
Bank Information Center (BIC)
Behinderung und Entwicklungszusammenarbeit
Berhan lehetsanat
Binti Salha Foundation
BIZEPS
Blind People's Association India
Bridge of Hope
Building Tomorrow
CAB
Cameroon Baptist Convention Health Services (CBCHS)
Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI)
CBM International
CEDAF - centro de audición
CENAID
Center for Development Skills and Knowledge of Social Work (CSWD) Vietnam
Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) Bangladesh
Centro de Empoderamiento de Personas con Discapacidad (CEMPDIS)
Centro Internacional de Educación y Desarrollo Humano (CINDE)
Cheshire Disability Services Kenya (CDSK)
Cheshire Foundation Action for Inclusion (CF-AI) Bahir Dar Project Office
Cheshire Services Ethiopia
ChildFund Ethiopia
ChildHope
Child Labor Coalition

Children in Crisis
CHIP
Church Forum on HIV and AIDS
Coalition nationale pour l'éducation pour tous Burkina Faso (CNEPTBF)
Collectif Handicap Maroc
Community Development Organization (CDO) Pakistan
Community Services Programm (CSP) Pakistan
Confédération des organisations des personnes handicapées de Côte d'Ivoire (COPHCI)
Congo Handicap
Council for Exceptional Children
Cydler
Deaf Child Worldwide
Direct Focus Community Aid (DFCAID)
Disability Partnership Finland / Vammaiskumppanuus
Disabled People's Organizations Denmark (DPOD)
Disabled Rehabilitation & Research Association (DRRA)
Disability Rights Fund
DKA Austria
Douleurs Sans Frontières
DUGA
Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development (DCDD)
Early Childhood Development Network of Pakistan (ECDNP)
Enabling Education Network (EENET)
Secrétariat national de l'enseignement catholique Burkina Faso
Educate the Children Inc.
Edukans
Enablement
Enguserosambu Community Forest Conservation Trust
Escuela de Integración y Formación Deportiva, Expresión Artística y Desarrollo Laboral (EIFODEC)
Escuela Taller de Integración (ETI)
Essl Foundation
Ethiopian National Association on Intellectual Disabilities (ENAID)
European Guide Dog Federation
FASCO
Fe y Alegría
Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre (FSHC)
Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)
Fracarita International
Friends of Karin Dom Association
Fundades
Fundación de Ayuda Social San Ignacio de Velasco (FASSIV)
Fundación Guatemalteca para niños con sordoceguera Alex (FUNDAL)
Fusi Alofa Association Tuvalu
Fundación ONCE para América Latina (FOAL)
Fundación Paso a Paso
Fundación Sonrisas que Escuchan
Global Campaign for Education
Global Campaign for Education - US
Global Partners United
Global Partnership for Children with Disabilities (GPcwd)

Global Partnership for Education (GPE)
GPcwd Early Childhood Development Task Force
Handicap International
Hanoi Association of People with Disabilities (DP Hanoi)
Hapaot Center
Harmee Education for Development Organisation (HEfDA)
Help a Child
Help for Persons with Disabilities-Organization (HPD-O)
Help for Persons with Disabilities Organization Ethiopia (HDPOE)
Hội Từ Thiện Quảng Trị
HORIZONT3000
Inclusion International
Instituto de Educación y Prevención para la Sordera - Beni
Instituto de Investigaciones Médico Sociales
Integration:Österreich
International Aid Services
International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)
International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI)
International Disability Alliance (IDA)
International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)
International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (IF)
iRockit - Breaking Barriers in Special Education for Children
IRODA - Parents of Children with Autism Initiative
Islamic Relief Worldwide
Jan Vikas Samiti
J. F. Kapnek Trust Zimbabwe
Johannes Kepler University
Jugend Eine Welt
Karagwe Community Based Rehabilitation Programmes (KCBRP)
Kenan Institute Asia
KIRDARC
Leonard Cheshire Disability
Light for the World
LightBox Africa
Liliane Fonds
Los Pipitos (Nicaragua)
Lumos
Medical Committee Netherlands-Vietnam (MCNV)
Mental Health Center
MICROSOCCKER
Mission East
Motivation
Movimento de educação para todos (MEPT)
Mozaik Foundation
Mulumbo Early Childhood Care and Development Foundation
Mundo Inclusivo
MyRight International
National Federation of the Disabled Nepal
National Forum of Women with Disabilities Pakistan
National Institute of Education Armenia
National Institute of Neurosciences

National Union of Disabilities' Organisations of Rwanda (NUDOR)
Netherlands Leprosy Relief (NLR) Mekong
Network of Organizations for Agricultural Development
Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD) - Norges Handikapforbund
Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO
Nossal Institute for Global Health, University of Melbourne
Noyemberyan N2 Kindergarten Armenia Tavush Marz
Nuanua O Le Alofa National advocacy organisation of persons with disabilities in Samoa
ÖGLB - Association of the Deaf Austria
One Family People
Organisation catholique pour le développement et la solidarité (OCADES)
Organisation Nationale des Parents pour Handicapés Auditifs de Côte d'Ivoire (ONPHA-CI)
Oxfam
Pacific Disability Forum
Palau Parents Empowered
Parents' Organisation of children with Down Syndrome (SiDa)
Partners for a Greater Voice
Pastoral Social Cáritas La Paz
Phare Ponleu Selpak
PIAP
PLAN International
PLAN International Nepal
Pohnpei Consumer Organization
Presbyterian Community Rehabilitation Services (PCRS) Kumba
Progressions: Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics
PROMHANDICAM
Rede de Campanha de Guinea Bissau (RECEPT-GB)
RED RBC Bolivia
RED regional por la educación inclusiva (RREI)
Rede Nacional da Campanha de Educação Para Todos de Cabo Verde (RNCEPT)
RESULTS UK
Rights and Inclusion (RI) Australia
RISE Institute
Rwanda Developmental Behavioural Pediatrics
Royal Dutch
Kentalis
Save the Children
Secours Islamique France
Sense International
Seto Gurans Child Development Service
Serere District Association of the Deaf / St. Joseph Memorial School of the Deaf
Shishu Sarothi
Shonaquip
Sightsavers
Social and Economic Development Associates (SEDA)
Society of Social Psychiatry and Mental Health Greece
Society without Barriers (SWB) Côte d'Ivoire
SOFT Tulip Foundation
SOS Children's Villages International
SOS-Menschenrechte
Special Talent Exchange Program (STEP)

Strømme Foundation
SWEB Foundation
Tamahar Trust
Te Toa Matoa
The Atlas Alliance
Leprazending - Leprosy Mission The Netherlands
Uhambo Foundation
UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Catalina Devandas Aguilar
UNESCO Chair 'Transforming the Lives of People with Disabilities, their Families and Communities, Through PE, Sport, Recreation and Fitness'
University of Cape Town Institute for Monitoring and Evaluation
University of Gondar
Vereinigung der Interessenvertretungen beeinträchtigter Menschen in OÖ
Welthaus der Diözese Graz-Seckau
Welthaus der Diözese Linz
Women in Adult and Vocational Education (WAVE)
World of Inclusion
World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP)
World Vision Australia
World Vision Austria
World Vision India
ZOA Relief|Hope|Recovery