



Inclusive  
Futures



Easy  
Read

# How to include people with disabilities in international development



**International development** is work that makes life better for people around the world.

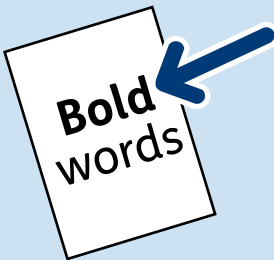
# Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

# What is in this booklet

About this booklet .....	4
About our 6 principles .....	5
Our 6 principles .....	7
Find out more .....	18

# About this booklet



Inclusive Futures works to make the world fairer for people with disabilities.



**International development**

We want to help other organisations include more people with disabilities in **international development** work.

**International development** is work that makes life better for people around the world.



So we used what we have learned to write 6 **principles** about how to do this.

A **principle** is a way of doing things.



Please read this booklet to find out how organisations can use these principles to include people with disabilities more in their work.

# About our 6 principles



In many countries around the world, people with disabilities find it difficult to get education, jobs and healthcare.



This means that people with disabilities are more likely to be poor than other people.



But most international development work does not include people with disabilities.



So we wanted to understand how we could include people with disabilities more.

We looked at 12 projects that we did between 2019 and 2023 and thought about things like:



- What went well.



- What did not go well.



- What made it easier for people with disabilities to take part in the projects.



We used this information to write our 6 principles.

# Our 6 principles

## 1. Make big changes



We want to make big changes in how people with disabilities are included in international development work.

Organisations can help make big changes by:



- Including people with disabilities from the start until the end of each project.



- Finding out what each person needs to take part in projects.



- Making sure they include women and girls with disabilities.

Organisations can also help make big changes by:



- Agreeing how they will work with **organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs)**.

An **OPD** has staff and members who are people with disabilities. They help stand up for what people with different disabilities need and want.



Working with OPDs to understand what could go wrong so they can make plans to keep everyone safe.

This is called **safeguarding**.



## 2. Change things that do not work

We want to use our projects to help people with disabilities:



- Go to school.



- Get a job.



- Get health care.

We also want our projects to help stop people with disabilities from facing:



- **Discrimination** - This is when they are treated badly or unfairly because of their disability.



- **Stigma** - This is when other people believe things about them that are unfair and not true.



People with disabilities often face lots of different problems which stop them from taking part in projects.



So if a project does not work, it is important to try different things to change the project.

We worked out what did and did not work in each project by:



- Listening to people with disabilities.



- Looking at information from staff.

### 3. Stop discrimination and stigma



People with disabilities may find it hard to take part in projects because of discrimination and stigma.



We worked with organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs), who helped us change what people believe about disability.

Projects can help stop discrimination against people with disabilities by:



- Working with people who make important decisions to help them include more people with disabilities.



- Sharing lots of information and good things about people with disabilities in the **media**.

The **media** is things like newspapers, TV and the radio.



- Providing training that tells people about:

- The **rights** of people with disabilities.

**Rights** are things that every person should have by law, like the right to be respected.



- How it is important to include everyone.

## 4. Record information



We made sure that we recorded enough of the right information about people with disabilities, like:

- How old each person is.
- What disability they have.
- If they are a man or a woman.



Recording this information is important because different people might need different kinds of support to take part in a project.



Doing this helped us find better ways to record information about people with disabilities in local areas.



We also made sure that the staff members who recorded this information had the right training.



It is important for organisations to record how much money they spend on including people with disabilities.



This can help people with disabilities take part in project activities and meetings.



Organisations should be happy to change the way they spend money on different projects.

This can help them include people with different disabilities and needs.



If their project does not include people with disabilities, they are not spending money in a fair way.

## 5. Talk about including people with disabilities



We worked with people with disabilities to agree on plans that would make their lives better.



We also looked at the best way to record and explain how we are including people with disabilities.



We looked at different ways to record how people felt about being included in projects - not just how many people were included.

## 6. Work with others



Working with other people and groups can help organisations include people with disabilities in their international development work.



All of these people and groups must be happy to try doing projects in new and different ways.

Organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) helped us include people with disabilities by:



- Sharing our plans with important people in the community.



- Speaking up for people with disabilities - this is called **advocacy**.



- Contacting people with disabilities to take part in our projects.



We also worked with:



- People with disabilities.



- People working in local and national governments who make important decisions about education, jobs and healthcare services.



- **Research partners** - these are people or organisations who find and share information with us.



- Other **International non-governmental organisations (INGOs)**.

**International non-governmental organisations (INGOs)** support people around the world who do not have enough access to the things they need.

# Find out more



If you need more information, please look at our website here:

[www.inclusivefutures.org/six-principles](http://www.inclusivefutures.org/six-principles)

This Easy Read booklet was produced by [easy-read-online.co.uk](http://easy-read-online.co.uk)  
The booklet includes images licensed from Photosymbols & Shutterstock.