

WORLD LEARNING'S COMMITMENT TO DISABILITY INCLUSION



HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMMING AND RESOURCES AS OF NOVEMBER 2016

World Learning is a nonprofit organization advancing leadership through education, exchange, and development programs in over 75 countries. World Learning seeks to include persons with disabilities in all of its activities and welcomes opportunities to engage with partners in new initiatives utilizing its core strengths in education, exchanges, training, civil society and governance, institutional strengthening, and grants management. World Learning has established partnerships with Mobility International USA (MIUSA) and the US International Council on Disabilities (USICD), as well as with disabled persons' organizations (DPOs) in several countries to create stronger linkages for global programs around disability inclusion. In 2015, World Learning received the InterAction Disability Inclusion Award for its innovative efforts to promote disability inclusion as a human rights issue.

World Learning continues to innovate and has brought together a team of development partners who are co-creating a practical gender equality and social inclusion resource for program implementers, evaluators and policymakers- The Transforming Agency, Access, and Power (TAAP): Tapping into the Voices, Skills, and Experiences Framework and Toolkit. This analytical toolkit seeks to "tap" into the voices, skills and experiences of all people toward a more inclusive program design, so that we can achieve dignity and development benefits for all. It is inspired by gender analysis, and is unique in that it broadens the lens to other marginalized/excluded people including people with disabilities.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Inclusive Youth Leadership Development in Mongolia:** In the development of the USAID-funded Mongolian Leaders Advancing Program, World Learning is applying the TAAP approach, consulting with DPOs to ensure the design and implementation of this program and all of its activities include persons with disabilities.
- **Technical support for disability inclusion in Myanmar:** World Learning helped local disability activists to organize the first Myanmar National Disability Conference, bringing together over 550 people from every region of the country. During the conference, representatives were elected to a new Myanmar Council for Persons with Disability (MCPD). With support from USAID, we worked with the 21-member MCPD and

international disability law experts from USICD to develop their organizational and technical capacity. In addition, World Learning's Institute for Political and Civic Engagement (IPACE), which is supported by the U.S. Embassy in Rangoon, works in collaboration with DPOs including Myanmar Independent Living Initiative and Mandalay Deaf School. World Learning provided one of the first TAAP trainings to a diverse group of activists who can now apply this evidence-based approach for working with vulnerable people.

- **Promoting Education, Altruism, and Civic Engagement (PEACE) in Algeria:** Through this program, World Learning promoted opportunities for Algerian university students and select young leaders with disabilities to constructively engage in addressing social problems within their communities by creating a strategic link between five university career centers and local civil society organizations (CSOs), including DPOs. World Learning supported skills-based training to students who implemented initiatives to expand inclusive education, accessible program design and training resources for people with disabilities in their communities.
- **Legislative Strengthening in Mongolia:** Through the State Department's Office of Citizen Exchanges, World Learning facilitated expert support to the Government of Mongolia in its efforts to draft comprehensive legislation and regulatory frameworks on disability rights. The Mongolian Parliament passed the Human Rights of People with Disabilities law in February 2016.
- **Grantmaking to Disability Organizations:** Through the USAID-funded Special Programs to Address the Needs of Survivors, Grant Solicitation and Management mechanism and other programs, World Learning has awarded grants to support service delivery, training, advocacy and related activities to assist vulnerable populations including displaced children and orphans, war victims and persons with disabilities.



World Learning

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- **Staff Capacity to Support Disability Inclusion:** World Learning staff lead a Disability Working Group and arrange trainings and awareness raising activities for staff and students to familiarize them with Universal Design for Learning for program design, strategies for creating accessible spaces, and resources for providing accommodations. We draw on the expertise of staff, interns, program participants, and organizations including MIUSA, USICD, 2gether International, Dr. Mason Global and the Washington, DC Department on Disability Services. Partnerships with DPOs are key to our commitment to follow the motto, “nothing about us, without us.”

EXCHANGE

- **Professional Exchanges:** World Learning hosts State-Department and USAID funded professional exchanges and trainings for more than 1,500 professionals from 140 countries each year. They explore topics such as the U.S. disability rights movement; K–12 inclusive education; assistive technology and method adaptations accommodations; college and university opportunities for persons with disabilities; advocacy for persons with disabilities; education and interpretation and public-private cooperation on disabilities issues.
- **Tailored Support for Persons with Disabilities on Exchanges:** World Learning provides tailored support and accommodations for participants with disabilities on professional and academic exchanges. For example, we coordinate inclusive programming and fellowship placements for participants with disabilities on the annual State-Department-funded Professional Fellows Congress, and we collaborate with colleges and universities to provide support services to international students with disabilities on academic exchanges to the United States.

EDUCATION

- **Disability Services to SIT Study Abroad and SIT Graduate School Programs:** World Learning’s SIT Office of Disability Service provides support and access to reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities who attend our graduate programs in Vermont and Washington, DC, as well as undergraduate students who participate in SIT Study Abroad programs.
- **Graduate-Level Disability Courses:** World Learning’s SIT Graduate Institute offers a Dismantling Disability course which examines perspectives on ability and disability, facilitates intercultural engagement and analysis and explores advocacy and social justice issues. Students may also take American Sign Language classes to fulfill their SIT language requirement.
- **Tailored TESOL Teacher Training Programs:** World Learning delivers a suite of teacher training course delivered in over 60 countries worldwide, and it has expertise in adapting course materials for teachers and students who have a visual impairment. In partnership with Gallaudet University, World Learning developed resources for ESL teachers working with D/deaf and hard of hearing students that are available through our website.
- **Sharing our Experience and Expertise:** World Learning staff often speak at conferences and develop workshops to share our strategies and experiences leading disability inclusive programs, developing effective partnerships with DPOs, and creating inclusive workplaces at events such as the InterAction Forum and Global Ties U.S. National Meeting.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WORLD LEARNING'S COMMITMENT TO DISABILITY INCLUSION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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