

## 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





Islamic Relief Worldwide



World Vision



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