All children have the right to go to school, whatever their gender, social status, disability or health. Getting all children of primary school age into school is the second of the Millennium Development Goals, a set of targets agreed to by world leaders to end poverty by 2015.

Children with disabilities are still largely excluded from education. Schools are often not accessible and many teachers are not confident to teach children with and without disabilities together. Inclusive Education means giving children with different abilities, needs and backgrounds the chance to learn together in the same classroom. It focuses on abilities and helps each child achieve his or her full potential. Children with disabilities develop relationships and skills and are accepted as active members by the community. Inclusive Education plays a great part in establishing strong, just and diverse societies.

**BURKINA FASO - INCLUSION WORKS IN KAYA!**

At the age of 4, Rihanata became paralysed due to malaria. She stayed at home and was excluded from the community. Last year, a Community-based Rehabilitation programme started looking for the children with disabilities who needed support in Kaya. The community realised that with few efforts and changes, Rihanata could be included. The new ramp to the classroom helps her access classes in her wheelchair and she is learning how to use her left hand to write. Her parents now know which exercises help strengthen her muscles. The director of the school says: “It’s just fantastic that a girl like Rihanata has the chance to go to school. I’m very proud of this.”

**KEY FACTS**

- One third of all out-of-school children are children living with disabilities.

- Discriminatory cultural attitudes, inaccessible schools, lack of teacher training and a rigid curriculum are just some examples of barriers that keep children with disabilities out of school.

- Denying education to children with disabilities dramatically increases the risk of them living in lifelong poverty.
**INCLUSIVE EDUCATION BENEFITS EVERYONE!**

- **Better learning for all:** Diversity in the classroom benefits all children and the community as a whole, by reducing discrimination and improving understanding of other persons’ abilities and individuality.
- **Education as empowerment:** Going to school helps children with disabilities become more independent and break the cycle of exclusion and poverty.
- **More effective schooling:** Schools that educate all children together are likely to be more effective than a complex system of specialised schools. It also ensures that children are not isolated from their family and community.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- Think about how you can include children with disabilities in your community.
- Show your support to inclusive education! The [Global Campaign for Education](http://www.globalcampaignforeducation.org) is a yearly international action for education: make sure you include disability in your activities!
- Encourage governments and donor agencies to review their education policy and place inclusion as an integral part of basic education, by allocating funds and investing in the capacity of teachers.
- Encourage development programmes designed to achieve MDG2 to actively include children with disabilities.
- Learn more about Inclusive Education on the [Enabling Education Network](http://www.enablingeducationnetwork.org).

**EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT!**

The right to education is also a reality for children with disabilities. This was made clear in the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unicef/pdf/2006/corundoc/conclusion.pdf) (articles 23 and 28) and in the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unicef/pdf/2006/corundoc/conclusion.pdf) (article 24). The Committee on the Rights of the Child further underlined the importance of this right in a [General Comment on Children with Disabilities](http://www2.who.int/childgrowth/publications/geneva/2009/en/).

For more information, visit our website: [www.endexclusion.eu](http://www.endexclusion.eu), or find us on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com) or [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com)!

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