

Building an Inclusive Development Community: Technical Assistance on Inclusion of People with Disabilities

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**Performance Report
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Project goals

To increase participation by people with disabilities, including women and girls, in US-based international development programs as participants, agents, administrators and consultants.

Accomplishments

This quarter MIUSA conducted a second technical assistance field visit to Guatemala, awarded small grants to Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) from Ecuador, reviewed proposals from DPOs in Albania and Guatemala and planned field visits in Indonesia.

Technical Assistance to USAID Missions, Contractors and Disabled Peoples' Organizations (DPOs)

Albania

In Albania, MIUSA worked closely this quarter with ADRF, our Albanian DPO partner, to coordinate follow up activities with USAID contractors for implementation of action plans emerging from the June 2007 MIUSA field visit

Consultations with USAID Contractors included:

The Millennium Challenge Albania Threshold (MCAT) Agreement project In June 2007, MIUSA brought ADRF together with Chemonics International, the US PVO leading an MCAT-funded initiative to open a national business registration and support center. During these meetings, MIUSA and ADRF addressed accessibility in building reconstruction activities, and identified physical access and access to electronic and information technology (E&IT) as key priorities.

This quarter, MIUSA and ADRF continued consultations with Chemonics. ADRF suggested revisions to format blueprints provided by Chemonics International, to bring the physical reconstruction of the building into compliance with Albanian building norms and to meet the Standards for Accessibility for the Disabled in USAID-Financed Construction. MIUSA provided long-distance support and coordination to help facilitate continued relations between ADRF's architect and engineer, Ms. Kospiri to meet with Chemonics International representatives to review and revise to building blueprints. In early September, Chemonics

International invited Ms. Kospiri to evaluate the accessibility of the facility. On September 10, 2007 the Grand Opening of the disability-accessible National Registration Center was held in Tirana, Albania. Chemonics International, ADRF and USAID Albania are continuing discussions to resolve the few remaining access issues.

Additionally, representatives of ADRF and the Disability and Development Advisory group, an outcome of the MIUSA June 2007 field visit, met several times this quarter with Chemonics International staff to increase understanding of accessibility standards and features for electronic and information technology (E&IT). ADRF made several presentations on how adaptive technology for individuals who are Blind interacts with accessible and inaccessible E&IT programs. Mr. Thomas Balderstom, the lead consultant working with Chemonics International on the E&IT aspects of the business registration center, confirmed that the NRC will reference Web Accessibility Initiative standards to guide the design of their e-governance and tax collections systems.

Disability and Development Consultations and Capacity Building: With support from the BIDD project, ADRF provided capacity-building consultations to 15 Albanian DPOs and advocacy organizations on grant writing, project development and partnership with development organizations. Consultations this quarter included the following:

- ALIA
- Help the Life
- MEDPAK Librazhd
- MDPAKM Elbasan
- The Association of Para and Quadriplegics
- God Loves Albania
- Albanian National Association of the Deaf
- Center for Women and Children “*Kombinat*”
- Association of Labour Invalids, *Gjirokastra*;
- “Friends and Peace” Paraplegic Association;
- National Association for People with Mental Handicap;
- “*Shtepia e Kuqe*”, Center for Children and Adults with Disability”;
- Beyond Barriers;
- Association for people with disability;
- *Shkoder*; and
- MISS AK, Tirana.

In addition, ADRF facilitated meetings with DPOs and USAID contractors, to promote partnership for BIDD small grant proposals and other collaboration. During this quarter, ADRF held consultations with EDEM, Junior Achievement, American Red Cross, and GTZ.

USAID/Albania Reporting Guidelines At September NEXUS meeting on reporting guidelines for USAID contractors, USAID/Albania announced that disability-aggregated data would be requested in reports. ADRF, MIUSA’s DPO partner in Albania commented: “We believe that MIUSA and the USAID-supported BIDD program had an impact on this very great development within the USAID Mission in Albania.”

Ecuador

To harness regional expertise in disability in development, MIUSA contracted Mr. Xavier Torres, the director of FENEDIF in Ecuador to co-facilitate technical assistance activities for the August 2007 field visit to Guatemala. While FENEDIF is a BIDC partner organization in Ecuador, their practical experiences working with USAID, international organizations and local community and business representatives made FENEDIF a natural fit to conduct capacity-building activities for DPOs and the development community in Guatemala. In September, MIUSA facilitated ongoing communication and consultation between FENEDIF and COPDIGUA on capacity building issues and follow-on to action plans developed during the field visit.

Guatemala

Working closely with USAID/Guatemala and local DPO partners COPDIGUA and ASCATED, MIUSA coordinated a series of workshops, on-site consultations and training activities for inclusive development stakeholders in Guatemala City, Guatemala, in August 2007. MIUSA consultants Cara Galbraith and Xavier Torres (President of the Federation of Ecuadorians with Physical Disabilities (FENEDIF) spent an active week in Guatemala stimulating development actors to engage in inclusive development practices and building the capacity of local disabled people's organizations and activists to further inclusive development through partnerships with development actors.

Activities of the BIDC field visit project involved a total of 129 people in workshop and training settings, including representatives of 29 DPOs and advocacy groups and 15 government and service organizations, and a total of 84 women and 57 people with disabilities. MIUSA and DPO partner organizations COPDIGUA and ASCATED conducted eight on-site disability and development consultations for the following organizations or offices

- Catholic Relief Services
- Anacafé
- Ministry of Education and Juarez and Associates
- USAID Democracy and Governance contractors working on the elections (Organization for American States, National Democratic Institute and Accion Ciudadana)
- Counterpart International
- Fundacion Agil
- CentraRSE
- USAID Contracts Office.

Each of the organizations participating in the on-site disability and development consultation identified action items to be followed up with MIUSA and MIUSA's local DPO partners, COPDIGUA and ASCATED. Below are several examples of outcomes from the BIDC project in Guatemala:

Catholic Relief Services requested a follow-on training for all CRS's Guatemala City and regional based staff. On September 3rd, 2007 MIUSA's local partner, COPDIGUA facilitated an all-staff training on disability in development, including components on disability culture and disability rights as human rights to 45 CRS staff members.

Organization of American States (OAS), the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) and Acción Ciudadana capitalized on opportunities to increase access for people with disabilities to the August 2007 and November 2007 presidential elections. On August 13, 2007, just a few days after the MIUSA field visit to Guatemala, COPDIGUA brought together representatives of the

Association of the Blind and the Association of the Deaf to meet with the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. At that meeting an agreement was made to produce three sign language interpreted televised election information advertisement which would run multiple times between August 13th and September 9 the first round of the elections; one radio spot; and an educational pamphlet designed by COPDIGUA for voting stations across Guatemala on how to assist and support individuals with disabilities to vote. The TSE and CONADI agree to publish a minimum of 15,000 pamphlets in preparation for the November 4th elections. USAID Guatemala was very supportive of this initiative.

Acción Ciudadana, a local Guatemalan organization that promotes citizen participation in the elections, invited COPDIGUA to participate in the Madrinas y Padrinos de Mirador Electoral. As part of this project, representatives of four DPOs participated in an August training and will participate in October Training Programs as well to prepare for community based activities on September 9th and November 4th, the election dates.

Fundación AGIL also requested a staff training on aspects of disability and development as it affects rural and agricultural families. In September, COPDIGUA facilitated two staff meetings and as a result, Fundacion AGIL staff and a rural representative office of the DPO AGPD are coordinating some activities together at the community level.

Juaréz and Associates: Standards in Education Review: MIUSA has been working with Juarez and Associates and the local Guatemalan parent advocacy organization, ASCATED to support inclusive education across Guatemala at two levels: 1) Recommendations and guidance in regards to the Guatemalan National Standards in Education, and 2) the involvement of DPOs and parent advocacy organizations in the implementation of the Guatemalan Ministry of Education inclusive education plan. During this quarter, MIUSA disseminated a review of Revisions to the National Standards in Education document, which is a key aspect of USAID Contractor, Juarez and Associates' *Standards in Education* cooperative agreement with USAID.

During the August in-country training and technical assistance activities, MIUSA, ASCATED and Juarez and Associates facilitated an informational meeting and opportunity to invite commentary from DPOs, parent advocacy groups, school representatives including special education instructors, standard education instructors and representatives of the Ministry of Education.

Indonesia

USAID/Indonesia, our fourth Mission partner, requested postponement of a BIDC technical assistance field visit to Indonesia until early 2008. MIUSA continued to develop DPO and NGO contacts in Indonesia, in preparation for the field visit.

Support for Innovative Projects (Small Grants)

This quarter MIUSA made small grant awards to two DPOs in Ecuador:

Comisión Nacional De La Mujer Con Discapacidad Física (CNMDF) de FENEDIF
Guayas Province

Project: Lucha Contra la Discriminación de la Mujer con Discapacidad. Primera Jornada Sobre el Problematico Bio-Sico-Social de la Mujer Con Discapacidad Fisica" (Fight against the discrimination of women with disabilities. First Conference about the Social and Health Issues of Women with Disabilities)

Asociación de Personas Discapacitadas del Azuay (APDISA)

Cuenca City

Project: Formación y Capacitación de líderes en el Área de Corte y Confección a través de la Elaboración y Comercialización de los Emprendimientos Productivos (Formation and Training of Leaders in the Area of Garment-Making through the Manufacturing and Commercialization of Their Products)

Ten proposals from DPOs in Albania and five from DPOs in Guatemala were reviewed by the Building an Inclusive Development Community international panel of reviewers.

Activities planned for next quarter

Technical assistance: Conduct follow-on and evaluation activities with DPOs and USAID Mission staff and Contractors/Grantees in Albania, Ecuador and Guatemala. We will continue to communicate with USAID/Indonesia, DPOs and USAID contractors to plan a field visit for winter 2007.

Small grants: Make DPO grant awards in Albania and Guatemala. Announce all grant awards publicly. Communicate with grantees, provide technical assistance as appropriate, in Ecuador, Albania, Guatemala.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Review benchmarks and impact indicators; review and revise evaluation plan for each technical assistance field visit and for overall project. Implement evaluation activities.

Dissemination: Plan participation in meetings with USAID personnel and other professional meetings to be held in 2007 and 2008.

Conclusion

We look forward to continuing to work with USAID to plan and implement intensive technical assistance to USAID Missions, USAID grantee organizations and contractors, and disabled peoples' organizations in selected countries. Thank you once again to USAID for support and cooperation to make this important work possible.