

# Mobility International USA

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January 31, 2009

Dear Mr. Feinberg,

Please find enclosed a narrative report describing activities undertaken by Mobility International USA (MIUSA) for the 4th quarter of 2008, in fulfillment of the goals of the *Building an Inclusive Development Community* project (Award Number: GEW-A-00-01-00012-00).

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require clarification. We look forward to continuing to work closely with USAID on this exciting project.

Sincerely yours,

Cindy Lewis  
Director of Programs  
Mobility International USA

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

USAID Cooperative Agreement Award No. GEW-A-00-01-00012-00

Performance Report  
4th Quarter 2008

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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

Highlights for this quarter of the Building an Inclusive Development Community (BIDC) project include: preparing for field visits to new BIDC countries, hiring a project manager, conducting follow on activities with small grantee organizations, launching the BIDC online resource center, and initiating International Development and Disability (IDD) e-news quarterly updates.

Table of Indicators\*

Indicators	2008 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
# of people trained Males: Females:	n/a
# of people served Males: Females:	n/a
# of organizations strengthened	n/a

\*Note: We were unable to report on the three indicators this quarter, as we were conducting activities in preparation for the project.

### Expanding the BIDC Project

MIUSA continued to build on past successes and prepared to launch the BIDC project in additional countries. Initial steps to implement the project are currently underway:

- *Selection of Target Countries*

MIUSA continued to work closely with USAID program officers to finalize selection of new countries in which to partner with USAID Missions. After consultation with Mission personnel, Indonesia and Armenia were withdrawn as potential target countries. USAID/Colombia and USAID/Mali have indicated strong interest; we are currently exploring a list of other possible countries in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and South America.

- *Collaborating with U.S. DPOs*

MIUSA facilitated a conference call with Anne Hayes and four U.S. DPO partners, the World Institute on Disability (WID), Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI), Disability Rights Education Defense Fund (DREDF), and the US International Council on Disability (USICD) regarding collaboration on BDC project activities. MIUSA staff solicited input from these collaborators to determine specific strengths and regional expertise each could lend to the project.

- *Hiring New Personnel*

MIUSA hired Lisa Adams for the position of Program Manager to take the lead on new BDC project activities. Ms. Adams brings extensive management experience in international development and disability programs. She recently returned to the U.S. after working for Handicap International in Serbia. MIUSA is excited to welcome Ms. Adams to the BDC team.

### 2007-08 Small Grantee Organization Follow On Activities

- *Small Grant Evaluation: Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF)*

MIUSA discussed structure and framework of a final summary report from ADRF to identify lessons learned, achievements and long-term inclusion efforts in Albania. During the December 11th, 2008 meeting of the Disability and Development Coalition meeting, Albanian small grantee organizations presented the results of their projects. From these presentations, ADRF compiled and submitted a summary report to MIUSA. (See attached report)

- *Inclusive Development Materials in Spanish from Ecuador DPOs*

MIUSA requested and received copies of materials produced during the small grant projects of FENEDIF (National Federation of Ecuadorians with Physical Disabilities) and CNMDF (Women's Commission of FENEDIF) in Ecuador. FENEDIF developed a best practices guide on inclusive

development, an outcome of their DPO capacity building activities in Ecuador and Guatemala. CNMDF sent the proceedings, which highlighted the themes and outcomes from their conference on inclusive healthcare for women with disabilities. CNMDF also sent an instructional guide developed for medical professionals on inclusion of people with disabilities.

- *Technical Support*

MIUSA continued to provide support to grantees by sending information on inclusive development activities to DPO partners and small grant recipients.

### MIUSA's International Development and Disability Website

- *BIDC Online Resource Center*

MIUSA launched the *Building an Inclusive Development Community (BIDC) Resource Center* to offer practitioners and policy makers straightforward and effective tools for inclusion that can be readily integrated into their existing framework. MIUSA will continue to add resources to build a comprehensive collection as the BIDC project progresses. Visitors to the resource center are also encouraged to submit their own resources that will be reviewed by MIUSA for possible inclusion. Currently, users can search the resource center by the following categories:

- *Program Planning*: Includes tip sheets, checklists, tools and instruments on inclusive development, from programming to evaluation.

- *Networking*: Includes links to discussion threads and searchable databases of disability or development organization profiles.

- *Information for Disability-Specific Accommodations*: Allows users to search for information on accommodations for people with on physical and mobility disabilities, blindness and visual impairment, Deafness and hard of hearing, and non-apparent disabilities.

- *Development Topics*: Allows users to search by Employment/Economic issues, Policy and Legislation, Health, Education, and other topics.

- *Region*: Allows users to search for resources and best practices by region.

The resource center can be accessed through MIUSA's website:

<http://www.miusa.org/idd/IDDresourcecenter>

- *IDD E-news Updates*

MIUSA compiled and sent out the first International Development and Disability (IDD) quarterly e-news update. The IDD e-news updates included information on BIDC project activities, as well as links to non-MIUSA resources, publications and opportunities that promote inclusive international development. The growing IDD listserv includes nearly 400 members from all regions of the world, including BIDC project beneficiaries and MIUSA's extensive network of alumni from the Women's Institute on Leadership and Disability. Registration for the listserv can be accessed from MIUSA's IDD homepage. Link to the sign-up form:

<http://list-manage.com/subscribe.phtml?id=071ab7edca>

### Activities planned for next quarter

In the next quarter, MIUSA will:

- Continue to work closely with USAID staff in the country selection process to confirm new BIDC countries
- Set dates and conduct a field visit to Colombia and Mali
- Contact key in-country stakeholders, including Mission staff, local DPOs and implementing partners, to continue preparations for field visits in new BIDC countries.
- Revise small grant application and evaluation materials
- Update small grants section of the MIUSA website based on information received from ADRF's "Evaluation report"
- Add CNMDF and FENEDIF publications (in Spanish and English) to the BIDC resource center
- Provide U.S. DPO collaborators with project update.
- Send out a new IDD e-news update to the IDD listserv announcing the official launch of the BIDC resource center

### Conclusion

We are pleased to continue working 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.



## BUILDING AN INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY Evaluation Report

Name of the organization:  
Albanian Disability Rights Foundation

Contact name with phone, fax, e mail:  
Blerta Cani, ADRF Executive Director, tel:++554269426,  
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Through the *Building an Inclusive Development Community* project, MIUSA in partnership with ADRF promoted inclusion of people with disabilities, including women and girls, in all aspects of USAID-funded international development programs.

In June 2007, MIUSA under BIDC -USAID funded project, in close coordination and support from USAID Mission in Albania, and ADRF as the local DPO partner, conducted another field visit as a follow on of activities of 2006. Technical assistance and training, advice and support offered through series of activities like workshops, training, seminars, site visits etc led to:

- Formation of a group of 12 (8 women and 4men/ 7 PWD and 3 parents of PWD) Disability and Development Advisors, through DPO advisers training, as a resource group that understand the philosophies of inclusive development and who would be able to follow up on inclusion with USAID partners as well as initiate new relationships with other development agencies working in Albania;
- Creation of a Disability and Development Coalition consisting of 25 members, representing the DPO community, other NPOs, donors, representatives from the business community and also representatives from public and private entities. Under a signed MoU, the group has agreed and started to work together to promote and support disability and development work. People with disabilities still tend to be marginalized from the community and international development, and the coalition will work to change this.
- In support of USAID's commitment to including people who have physical and mental disabilities and those who advocate and offer services on behalf of people with disabilities in USAID development initiatives at the country level, extending this commitment from the

design and implementation of USAID programming to advocacy for and outreach to people with disabilities other activities were organized, including support to USAID/Albania Strategic Team Leaders, Program Officers, Mission Management and the Contracts Office on inclusive development policies and practices; support and technical assistance to 8 USAID funded contractors and grantee organizations (EDEM, Opportunity International, Junior Achievement, World Learning/Forecast, American Red Cross, CAAHT, Pro-Shendet, Family Planning, aiming to stimulate that they apply inclusive development ideas to their program framework.

- Chemonics, has provided a model of including PWD as advisors in their program, in relation to barrier free designing and construction of “National Center for Business Registering”
- To this end, served also the small grants initiative that concluded in awarding through an open competition procedures, small grants to five DPOs in support of innovative projects and collaborative initiatives that would result primarily in inclusive practices, policies and outcomes within existing international development initiatives, programs and activities in Albania, three being USAID development programs, EDEM, Family-Planning and USAID contractors members of the National Disability and Development Coalition initiative.

#### Small Grants Initiatives - Implementing Partners

1- “Economic growth, Employment and Disability- Building an inclusive business community” project was implemented by:

The National Albanian Labor Invalids Association, and EDEM USAID-funded Enterprise Development and Export Market Services and EDEM local partners (private sector businesses in the Tourism and Agriculture/Agribusiness sectors) to advance an inclusive business community contributing to economic growth and employment opportunities for PWD.

2- “Including Children with Disabilities in Public Education- Implementation of Inclusive Education Law” - Project was implemented by the MDPAKM/The association for defending the rights of people with mental disability - a local parents association in Elbasan, in cooperation with “Partners for Hope” office of World Vision which implements their projects in 4 communities in Elbasan area. The project consists on creating a good cooperation with different structures such as: local government, Region Directory of Education of Elbasan district, parents, teachers and specialists of this field.

3- “Change means development; live together and develop together” MEDPAK Librazhd and the Albanian project “Child Survival” financed by USAID and implemented by the American Red Cross in collaboration with the Albanian Red Cross in Dibra Region had a chance through this small grant to coordinate activities, and mainstream health care for people with disabilities on existing community health care programs.

4- “Family planning and sexual education in people with mental and physical disability” is a project of two DPO groups “Help the life” & “Hope and Love; Muscular Dystrophy” and the Albanian Association of Family Planning. Project

aims to offer family planning services to people with mental and physical disabilities, based in inclusive practices.

5- Creating a Disability and Development Coalition was a project supporting ADRF/ Albanian Disability Rights Foundation to enable the development phase of the coalition by applying for some financial support to host a series of meetings that will fulfill objectives like: give further information and training on good models of practice for disability inclusiveness, provide coalition members the opportunity to learn and share with each other on their existing practices on disability inclusiveness and also focus on team building and networking strategies, discuss and decide on the long term structure and working format of the disability and development coalition.

In order to create a chance for final evaluation of the activities developed by the grantees during the BDC small grant initiatives in Albania, ADRF facilitated a final presentation of outcomes, challenges and successes with implementing partners, USAID staff and members of the Disability and Development Coalition, Albania (DDCA).

The focus group discussion was organized during a general meeting of the Albanian Disability and Development Coalition (DDCA) on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Including this presentation in the agenda of the coalition meeting had two purposes:

- 1- Evaluate the project activities
- 2- Give members of DDCA a chance to learn models of building inclusive development programs by witnessing concrete local small scale initiatives.

#### *Highlights of small grant initiatives:*

- DPO project implementing partners were given a chance to show to development organizations and targeted groups the expertise and capacities among the DPO community on different issues that affect the lives of people with disabilities
- The project gave a chance for teambuilding and establishment of a dialogue among DPOs and development organizations as well as all projects' targeted public and private institutions
- Participants in projects' activities understood the importance and articulated the desire to support implementation of inclusive development practices.
- DPOs exhibited strong knowledge of "human rights framework" of disability.
- Attention was given to increasing awareness on issues of young girls and women with disabilities and gender issues.
- DPOs identified opportunities for future collaborative work utilizing a twin track approach to inclusive development in areas of economic development, inclusive education, health care and family planning and other advocacy and human rights initiatives

*Major achievements/ challenges and future long term inclusion efforts of each implementing partner:*

**1- Albanian Labor Invalids Association /ALIA**

*Major achievements*

- The project resulted in increased awareness on inclusive policies and practices within the USAID-funded Enterprise Development and Export Market Services (EDEM) project. Disability was mainstreamed in EDEM publications (its newsletter)
- Community of business, mainly EDEM program beneficiaries, gained improved awareness and understanding of legislation stimulating employment of PWD, and good corporate citizenship practices, mainly through workshops and seminars organized in the project's 4 targeted districts.
- Employment opportunities for people with disabilities have increased as a result of awareness raising activities organized jointly by ALIA, ADRF and EDEM

*Challenges*

- 1- It was hard for the business community to understand and accept the idea that people with disabilities can work and be efficient;
- 2- The " law on stimulating employment and vocational training for people with disabilities" is not yet implemented; there is no monitoring process and no penalties enforced on public and private institutions that do not implement the law;
- 3- Disability allowance schemes sometimes stimulate unemployment of people with disabilities
- 4- EDEM program was closed in September 2008, so that the partnership with the development organization could not continue. However, sustainability of the initiative is ensured through capacities, dialogue and partnership established with EDEM local partners.

*Future action plans*

- 1-Further improvements on the law stimulating employment of people with disabilities are necessary,
- 2- Consistent monitoring of implementation of the law should be in place,
- 3- Public awareness and information campaigns programs should be consistent in order to create the necessary preconditions to realizing employment of people with disabilities.

**2- MDPAKM**

*Major achievements*

The success of the project was guaranteed thanks to collaboration with local government, the Regional department of Education, teachers, parents, and specialists of inclusive education, children with and without disabilities of targeted schools.

- Increased awareness and capacities among teachers, parents and students on issues related to inclusive education, Individual Education Plans and human rights of children with disabilities , mainly through a series of training sessions;

- Increased awareness of the community on human rights and the right to inclusion and equal participation for people with disabilities, through public awareness, information campaigns and building small scale barrier free practices.
- Strengthened partnership of parents group, World Vision, Elbasan and all related actors involved in inclusive education

#### *Major difficulties and challenges*

- Lack of capacities among teachers to accept the challenge of inclusive education
- Classes have a great number of students, and this makes it more difficult for teachers to realize an efficient inclusive education process
- Schools are inaccessible for children with disability, wheelchair users;
- There is lack of teaching aid and materials that should support inclusive education for children with disability.

In order to address the challenges, it's important that joint action and dialogue continues so that proper realistic planning and programming supports inclusive development programs in the area of education for children with and without disabilities.

### **3- MEDPAK**

#### *Major Achievements*

- Increased awareness of the staff and volunteers of the Red Cross staff on designing inclusive early intervention programs for children in their health care programs.
- Increased awareness on proper coordination of between health care, local public authorities and municipality of Peshkopia
- Increased capacities among parents of children with disability for self mobilization and self advocacy
- In September 2008, a day care center for people with disabilities was created with the initiative of a trained group of parents and with the support of and in close collaboration with the Municipality of Peshkopia

#### *Major Challenges*

The program of "Albanian Child Survival" in Diber was closed in September 2008. So there are no longer opportunities for collaboration with this development program. However, sustainability of this program as well as this small grant initiative rests with the local community resources created through training activities, public awareness campaigns, and meetings with related responsible authorities.

Among major *future long term plans* designed under this project the following are highlighted:

- A needs assessment of families of people with disabilities by the Municipality of Peshkopi, as a necessity for proper planning of inclusive community development programs.

-Further investment in strengthening the parents' movement in Peshkopia; strengthen the partnership with MEDPAK and local public authorities

-Further investment in community awareness raising programs on disability and disability and development issues. There is a peculiarity for this project, as it was implemented at a controversial time. People with disabilities, especially those with mental health conditions, were considered as a risk for the community because a person with mental disability was accused of killing a child in this region.

#### 4- Help the Life & Hope and Love

##### *Major Accomplishments*

- 1) For the first time in Albania this project offered an opportunity for sharing concepts of inclusive development related to family planning among staff of Pro-Shendet and family planning and the DPO organizations. Issues of sexual education and family planning for people with physical and mental disability were for the first time publicly discussed and raised as an issue that needed proper attention and consideration.
- 2) A common resource of information and training materials was created as a result of joint work, experiences and expertise of the three partnering organizations.
- 3) Staff of Family Planning Association are aware of the need for family planning and sexual education for people with disabilities, they are now able to build contacts and relationships with people with disabilities, they are able to adopt discussions, information and working methods related to family planning based on the level of understanding, needs, mentality and reality of people with disabilities and their family members.
- 4) 40 young adults with mental/physical disability and their family members are well informed on family planning concepts and its importance in their life.
- 5) Staff of Public health care family planning services , in the Tirana administrative unit No. 3 are sensitized and well informed on disability and the importance of extending family planning to this group of people.

##### *Challenges and difficulties*

Being quite new concepts for the family planning area, this project faced difficulties during its implementation stage:

- 1- Refusal and resistance from the parents of young adults with disabilities on the first instance to talk about family planning issues as a result of total lack of information on this topic. The need for sexual education and family planning is considered as a taboo by family members of people with disabilities.
- 2- Project staff were also faced with existing prejudices and lack of proper information on disability among staff of public health care service

providers, consequently it was hard for them to accept the idea of including family planning for people with disabilities in their family planning programs.

#### *Future action plans*

- 1- There is real need for further promotion of services of family planning for people with disabilities throughout the country
- 2- People with disabilities and their family members should become part of policy development decision making processes related to family planning

#### **5 - Albanian Disability Rights Foundation (ADRF)**

##### *Major achievements*

- Improved understanding of members of the disability and development coalition on disability issues on the social model and human rights perspective.
- Improved understanding and disability mainstreamed in coalition members' activities (article written in the association of Municipalities journal), as an indicator of improved understanding and disability inclusion
- A forum of exchange of ideas and information on issues of disability and development and other areas of common interest created and maintained within the group members of DDCA. The establishment of the electronic network with the addresses of 25 members of the coalition
- More outreach to the disability community by members of Disability and Development Coalition.
- Enhancement of the DDCA members' responsibility to establish an optimal functioning structure by participating in the discussions on the production of the draft statute. An understanding and agreement outlined in concrete action plans defined and agreed on by Disability and Development Coalition.
- Awareness raising and taking two concrete advocacy actions by the DDCA members, which are proved by the signing of the request for the approval of people with mental disabilities status to be addressed by the government and "Appeal/or Open Paper on the right to Electoral Access for People with Disabilities "
- The Open paper that was sent to all responsible institutions and main political parties stimulated an open debate/round table requested in response by one of the major political parties (third force in the parliament) where they committed their full support to the issues of electoral access to all people with disabilities, but also promised to focus more on concerns of people with disabilities in their party programs. The representative of DDCA was requested to make a presentation at a Hearing Session at the Albanian Parliament on the right to vote for people with disabilities.

##### *Challenges and future long term action plans*

- 1- Consistent investment in improving capacities among members of the coalition on disability and development issues;
- 2- Follow on the action plan approved by the members of DDCA and ensure that it is implemented. Follow on the advocacy initiatives undertaken by DDCA in order to ensure that they will bring the intended results (legal framework that guarantees the right to vote for PWD; the status of people with mental disabilities; accessibility for PWD) ;
- 3- Update members of the DDCA with the most recent local, national and international initiatives related to full and equal participation of people with disabilities;
- 4- ADRF participated broadly in all the activities of the BIDC project in Albania. Multiple representatives attended and co-facilitated portions of the training activities. Their inclusive development plans include actions that will engage ADRF staff in inclusive development actions with implementing partners as well as increasing the capacity of DPOs and individuals with disabilities to advocate for and promote inclusive development practices.

These examples of collaboration between DPOs and international/national development organizations in Albania are only the first steps but are a very important and necessary stage in a process that will contribute to challenging barriers of segregation and to building a fully inclusive society.