

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

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Performance Report
1st Quarter 2009

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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:

- Prepared for and conducted an introductory field visit to Mali, a new BIDC country
- Prepared for introductory field visits to Ethiopia and Colombia, new BIDC countries
- Regular up-dates with the U.S. DPO collaborators
- Conducted follow-on activities with BIDC small grantee organizations
- New materials developed for the BIDC online Resource Center
- Disseminated MIUSA's International Development and Disability (IDD) e-news quarterly update
- BIDC project staff conducted technical assistance activities to promote inclusive development to DPOs, business and government leaders in Latin America, through MIUSA's International Leadership Employment and Disability (I-LEAD) exchange program (supported by non-USAID funding)

Table of Indicators*

Indicators	2009 1st 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 an introductory field visit to a new BIDD country and carrying out planning activities around next quarter's introductory field visits to two new BIDD countries.

BIDD Planning and Introductory Field Visits

This quarter MIUSA prepared for and carried out the first introductory field visit and planned for up-coming field visits to new BIDD target countries. The activities included:

- ***Selection of Target Countries:*** In consultation with the USAID Disability Team in Washington and USAID Mission staff and with inputs from U.S. DPO collaborators, Mali, Ethiopia and Colombia were selected as new BIDD target countries. Countries under consideration as the fourth target country include Jordan and Kosovo.

- ***Introductory Field Visit to Mali:*** Working closely with USAID/Mali and the Disability Team at USAID/Washington, the BIDD Project Manager conducted an introductory field visit with Anne Hayes from the USAID Disability Team to Mali from March 23 to 27, 2009. The focus of the field visit included:
 - Learning about the situation of people with disabilities in Mali by meeting with local DPOs, government representatives and other relevant stakeholders working on disability issues in Mali
 - Meeting with DPOs and learning about their previous experience working on inclusive development issues and determine possible areas of needed capacity building or technical assistance and assess potential for partnership with US-based development organizations through the small grants
 - Meeting with USAID/Mali to learn about their programs and to identify possible areas for focusing technical assistance and capacity building activities and to determine the level and scope of involvement the Mission would like to have within the BIDD project
 - Meeting with USAID implementing partners to learn about existing development programs including the extent to which programs currently include people with disabilities and determine possible areas for future technical assistance and training. The meetings also provided a forum to explore opportunities for future partnerships with DPOs

Since the field visit MIUSA has drafted a trip report which will be shared with senior staff at the USAID Mission.

Mali Field Visit Table of Indicators

Indicators	2009 1 st Quarter
Number of DPOs visited in Mali	6
Number of USAID implementing partners visited in Mali	5
Other stakeholders visited in Mali (government, international non-governmental organizations and others)	4
Number of people at USAID/Mali with whom we met	10
Number of people visited in Mali in total	57

- ***Communication with Colombia and Ethiopia:*** MIUSA is pleased to have initiated communications this quarter with USAID/Colombia and USAID/Ethiopia as well as with our DPO contacts in both countries.
- ***Established dates for field visits in Colombia and Ethiopia:*** Working closely with USAID/Colombia and USAID/Ethiopia, MIUSA set dates for two introductory field visits, one in Colombia and one in Ethiopia, each scheduled for May 18 to 22, 2009. An introductory field visit for a fourth BIDD target country will be set for June or July of 2009.
- ***Collaborating with U.S. DPOs:*** MIUSA is in communication with four U.S. DPOs: Disability Rights Education Defense Fund (DREDF), Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI), the U.S. International Council on Disability (USICD), and the World Institute on Disability (WID), regarding collaboration on BIDD project activities. MIUSA maintained regular communication with the U.S. DPO collaborators via email and individual phone calls up-dating them on project activities and soliciting their inputs and suggestions for field visits to Mali, Ethiopia and Colombia as well as their suggestions regarding the selection of a potential fourth country.

BIDD Capacity Building Grants

Mr. Francisco Sojuel Navichoc of Guatemala, Founder and Director of the Parent's Association for People with Physical and Mental Disabilities in Santiago, Atitlan (ADISA), was in Eugene, Oregon in March 2009, as a delegate to MIUSA's *Institute on Leadership, Employment and Disability (I-LEAD)*

Professional exchange program. BIDC staff took this opportunity to interview Mr. Sojuel regarding ADISA's inclusive education project, "Learning Together", which was supported by a 2007 BIDC Capacity Building grant.

In an in-depth discussion with Susan Dunn, MIUSA BIDC Project Coordinator, Mr. Sojuel described outcomes of the project, and future steps.

Outcomes noted by Mr. Sojuel include stronger collaborative relationships with NGOs, Parents Associations, government agencies and schools. For example:

- Pueblo a Pueblo, an NGO that provided volunteers for the project, continues to provide volunteer support to ADISA on other initiatives.
- Involvement of Parents' Associations in the project resulted in an increased number of parent volunteers in the schools.
- The Guatemalan Ministry of Education offered support to sustain project activities, and is currently funding teacher's salaries.
- As a result of the project's visibility and success, local schools are increasingly seeking ADISA's consultation and technical assistance on inclusion of students with disabilities in mainstream schools.

Mr. Sojuel described follow-on activities undertaken by ADISA to ensure that positive results are sustained and expanded. For example:

- ADISA monitors each of the 37 students with disabilities who are currently enrolled in mainstream schools, through monthly evaluations, attendance tracking and progress reports
- ADISA has secured resources to enable adults with disabilities to continue their education

ADISA seeks to build on the successful outcomes of the "Learning Together" Project, through partnerships with USAID implementing partners and other community actors. For example, ADISA is planning projects designed to:

- Initiate inclusive education projects in at least one school in each community
- Increase participation of people with disabilities in the community council, school boards and other civil society organizations
- Facilitate training and professional development of people with disabilities and indigenous people in fields such as education, social work and psychology

Capacity Building for Inclusive Development in Latin America

BIDC project staff conducted workshops on inclusive development and capacity building for delegates of MIUSA's International Leadership Employment and Disability (I-LEAD) for Professionals exchange program, funded by the Wal-Mart Foundation. I-LEAD participants included leaders in government, business, education, community development, and disability rights organizations, with and without disabilities, from Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico.

BIDC Online Resource Center

The *Building an Inclusive Development Community (BIDC) Resource Center* offers practitioners and policymakers straightforward and effective tools for inclusion that can be readily integrated into their existing framework. This quarter, MIUSA staff adapted and up-dated sections of the *Building an Inclusive Development Community* manual into one page tip sheets to be posted in the BIDC resource center and used for MIUSA's Inclusive Development and Disability trainings. The tip sheets provide up-to-date information and resources on the inclusion of people with disabilities in various development sectors including: Agriculture, HIV/AIDS, Water and Sanitation, Health, Civil Society, Emergency Response, Disaster Mitigation, Governance, Education, Domestic Violence, Micro-credit and Microfinance, Community-based Rehabilitation, Reproductive Health, and Gender.

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

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

International Development and Disability E-news Updates

MIUSA produced and disseminated the second International Development and Disability (IDD) quarterly e-news update which 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 e-news listserv includes nearly 400 members from all regions of the world, including BIDC project partners and grantees and MIUSA's extensive network of leadership program alumni. Registration for the listserv can be accessed from MIUSA's IDD homepage.

The link to the sign-up form can be accessed at:

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

Activities planned for next quarter

In the next quarter, MIUSA will:

- **Select fourth BIDC country:** Continue to work closely with USAID staff and with the inputs of U.S. DPO collaborators to select the fourth BIDC country
- **Plan introductory field visits:** Communicate with key in-country stakeholders, including USAID Mission staff, local DPOs and USAID implementing partners, to continue preparations for field visits to Colombia, Ethiopia and the fourth BIDC country
- **Conduct introductory field visits to Colombia, Ethiopia and possibly the fourth BIDC country**
- **Develop implementation plan for Mali:**
 - Develop and begin implementation of a technical assistance and capacity building action plan for Mali based on analysis of

information gathered through the introductory field visit and in close consultation with USAID/Mali, the USAID Disability Team and U.S. DPO collaborators

- Work closely with USAID/Mali and U.S. DPO collaborators to develop and announce a small grants program
- **Work with U.S. DPO Collaborators:**
 - Continue to provide regular BIDC up-dates to U.S. DPO collaborators and get their inputs and suggestions for the introductory field visits to Ethiopia, Colombia and the fourth BIDC country
 - Share results of field visits and technical assistance plans with U.S. DPO collaborators and explore opportunities to work together
 - Plan face-to-face meeting with U.S. DPO collaborators and USAID/Washington Disability Team staff to define collaborator's roles, their scope of work and timelines
- **BIDC capacity building small grants follow-up:** Introduce Francisco Sojuel to USAID/Guatemala Mission staff and USAID implementing partners in Guatemala via e-mail
- **Send out an IDD e-news update** on BIDC project activities
- **Continue to update the BIDC online Resource Center** with inclusive development tools and inclusive development tip sheets

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.