

Mobility International USA (MIUSA)

Building an Inclusive Development Community: Technical Assistance to InterAction Member Agencies on Inclusion of People with Disabilities

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

Performance Report October – December 2006

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 continued to provide technical assistance following on 2006 field visits, began focused planning for 2007 field visits and small grants competitions in each target country, and launched a new online publication.

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

MIUSA communicated this quarter with USAID Missions and DPO partners in Ecuador, Guatemala and Albania, to identify timeline, priority areas, scope of work and requisite consultant expertise for next field visits. Tentative dates and areas of focus include:

- **Ecuador:** February 11 to 18, 2007. Quito, Ecuador and Manabí, Ecuador.
DPO partner is FENEDIF.
Focus: Strengthen DPO networks, particularly outside urban centers; build capacity for inclusive development of USAID grantees and contractors and DPOs, including women with disabilities; motivate multi-disciplinary stakeholders to promote opportunities in employment and education for people with disabilities.
- **Guatemala:** tentative dates April 23 – 27, 2007. Coban and Guatemala City, Guatemala
DPO Partner is COPIDIGUA.
Focus: provide technical assistance to USAID contractors to incorporate inclusive education policies and practices in development of national education system; involve school-based community, DPOs, development organizations and local government stakeholders in promotion of inclusive development activities focused on education and employment of people with disabilities; and build capacity of DPOs, including women with disabilities, USAID grantees and contractors to facilitate for inclusive development.
- **Albania:** tentative dates: June 2007 (7-10 days). Tirana, Albania.
DPO Partner is ADRF.
Focus: Development a national "International Development and Disability" network; build capacity for inclusive development by USAID programs, contractors, DPOs, and women with

disabilities; train a cadre of DPO leaders and advocates to replicate inclusive development trainings and workshops.

Examples of follow-on technical assistance activities and outcomes this quarter:

Ecuador:

- MIUSA distributed information on “HIV/AIDS and Disability” to USAID offices and partners working on HIV/AIDS in country.
- MIUSA recommended and provided information to FENEDIF on the application process to be a host organization for a US Peace Corps Volunteer, and other opportunities to host US interns or volunteers.

Albania:

- **9th International Congress on Community Services for Children, Youth and Families with Special Health Care Needs**, Washington, D.C., December 4-7, 2006.
Following the May 2006 technical assistance visit to Albania, MIUSA informed USAID/Albania about this opportunity, and recommended a team of Albanian disability rights advocates, community representatives and DPO leaders to Mission staff, to participate in the Congress. USAID/Albania, working closely with the USAID-supported Training and Capacity Building program administered by World Learning, selected a team that included members of ADRF, our Albanian DPO partner, and MEDPAK, another DPO involved in the Building an Inclusive Development Community (BIDC) project.

ADRF comments include:

Thanks to your support [the] USAID mission in Albania funded a team from Albania to participate in the 9th International Congress on Children Youth and Families with Special Health Care Needs. Experiences of ADRF with MIUSA were shared in that Conference with the participants in a morning session. An article about participation in the Conference is written by Zela Koka, and will be published soon in ADRF quarterly newsletter " Challenge Magazine."

- **Beyond the Borders: DPO Strengthening and Capacity Building**
Beyond the Borders, a newly formed Albanian DPO sought regional opportunities to network and forge new relationships with organizations similar to theirs. With technical assistance from MIUSA, Beyond the Borders staff applied to participate in a Dutch Disability and Development training program and a workshop on meeting the educational needs of university level students with disabilities in Turkey. Unfortunately both of these programs experienced extremely high numbers of applicants and were unable to support Beyond the Borders’ participation.
- **ADRF** submitted a proposal to the Ronald McDonald Foundation, following up on information provided by MIUSA.

The following comments from ADRF summarize other follow-on activities, developments and outcomes of BIDC technical assistance:

ADRF continued contacts with the small Business Group, we provided them with all our business plans, feasibility studies for the wheelchair workshop, but unfortunately, they are

now in a transition period, closing down as USAID program and registering as a local entity/organization. They said that we can contact them at that moment.

Another USAID partner in Albania, The Institute for Contemporary Studies, Invited ADRF as an organization with expertise in the process of defining policies in the area of Urbanistics, For 5 months July -November, Bardhylka took part in the round table discussions with experts from public and private entities, Governmental and non governmental ones, by providing concrete contribution in the necessity of barrier free environment for people with disability, proposals that were included in the draft policy paper, that will open the way to the work of defining a new law of Urbanistics. An article is written about this activity in ADRF most recent Challenge newsletter.

At the moment three organizations, ADRF, Help the Life and Medpak, are subcontracted by IRI (International Republican Institute) under USAID funded project on political Participation for people with Disability", focused on influencing the candidates for local governmental elections to include rights of PWD in their political platforms. ADRF is also playing the role of coordination among the three organizations and other disability groups.

- **Teuta Halilaj, whose participation in MIUSA's 2006 Women's Institute on Leadership and Disability** was sponsored in part by USAID through the Building an Inclusive Development Community project, has been active as a spokesperson and community organizer working with Albanian Council for Disability and ADRF. Ms. Halilaj recently facilitated the production of a video for television broadcast on disability rights and societal prejudices in Albania, and co-organized a Balkanic Conference on Disability in Tirana, hosted by the Albanian Council for Disability. ADRF also reported:

After the training in USA, Teuta [Halilaj] was invited to share her experiences with the other wheelchair users in ADRF active rehabilitation training activity, one week training activities organized annually by ADRF at the beach in Durres. She has also written an article about her training in ADRF quarterly newsletter "Challenge". This newsletter is distributed to all ADRF network, Governmental institutions, Disability organizations, USAID contractors and other donors, public and private institutions (an entry of 250 users), disabled individuals, beneficiaries of ADRF programs (Average of 100 per month), it is also included in ADRF web page and USAID mission in Albania web page etc.

Guatemala:

- **Juarez and Associates Standards in Education Program/Guatemala**
MIUSA continued to communicate with USAID/Guatemala and USAID contractor Juarez and Associates to build on MIUSA's June 2006 technical assistance in Guatemala and incorporate inclusive practices into the USAID-sponsored Standards in Education project. MIUSA and Juarez and Associates prioritized technical assistance activities that MIUSA will undertake over the next quarter as follows:
 1. Facilitate independent review of the draft Standards in Education
 2. Conduct a small grant competition open to the Guatemalan DPO community with a theme of promoting inclusive education; and
 3. Identify a regional expert in inclusive education and disability advocacy to co-facilitate sessions during the next field visit.

- **9th International Congress on Community Services for Children, Youth and Families with Special Health Care Needs**

Ms. Jeannette Cacacho, Special Education Director, Ministry of Education and a key participant in the BIDD field visit to Guatemala in June 2006, was selected to join the delegation supported by USAID/Guatemala to attend the 9th International Congress on Community Services for Children, Youth and Families with Special Health Care Needs in Washington, DC. Ms. Cacacho is also a member of the Standards in Education review team.

- **Capacity building for DPO / NGO partnership**

MIUSA responded to requests from a USAID Contractor for referrals for DPOs who had submitted proposals for projects not fundable under the contractor's scope of work. MIUSA also provided technical assistance to one of these DPOs, also a participant of the BIDD field visit activities, reviewing proposals and making recommendations on program design and steps to take to form strategic alliances with development organizations.

Fourth Mission

MIUSA researched and submitted a list of potential USAID Mission partners to Project CTO Lloyd Feinberg, who in turn sent a letter of invitation for cooperation to USAID/ Indonesia. We expect a positive response by next quarter.

Support for Innovative Projects (Small Grants)

This quarter, MIUSA reviewed criteria and protocol for the Small Grant competition with CTOs and participating Missions, and began outreach to experts to serve as external reviewers for grant proposals. Country-specific application questionnaires and scoring sheets were drafted and reviewed by Mission and DPO partners, and translated into Spanish (Albanian translations will be complete next quarter.) Lists for dissemination of small grant applications were compiled for each country, with the assistance of DPO partners.

Overall criteria for small grants are as follows: awards will support local Disabled People's Organizations, parent advocacy groups and initiative groups to facilitate innovative projects and collaborative initiatives that will 1) result in an increase in inclusive practices, policies and outcomes within existing international development activities; 2) promote collaboration among disabled people's organizations and international development agencies and organizations; and 3) improve advocacy and leadership skills of individuals with disabilities, including women and girls with disabilities, disabled peoples' organizations and initiative groups to build capacity for participation in the development process.

Small grants competitions are expected to open in the next quarter, with awards made in March 2007. We expect activities under the Small Grants programs to be completed by December 2007.

Technical Assistance Materials and Information

Moving Toward Inclusion, a publication featuring lessons learned during the earlier phase of the BIDD project was posted for publication on MIUSA's website in a downloadable format. Case studies compiled in this publication illustrate diverse strategies used by MIUSA, our partner organizations and other programs toward inclusion of people with disabilities. MIUSA will announce and publicize this new publication during the first quarter of 2007.

Articles on MIUSA's Gender, Disability and Development Institute (GDDI), sponsored in part by USAID, appeared this quarter in the following publications: Women's UN Report Program & Network (WUNRN); Association for Women's Rights in Development; InterAction's *Monday Developments*; *New Mobility* and MIUSA's *Global Impact*.

Activities planned for next quarter

Technical assistance: Ecuador, Albania and Guatemala: Finalize plans for second TA field trips to each country, including selection of consultants with relevant expertise to meet priorities of USAID Mission and DPO partners. Conduct field visit to Ecuador.

Fourth country: Initiate relationship with selected USAID Mission. Identify stakeholders including key contractors and DPOs, and explore the status of inclusive policy, practice and plans at the Mission. Identify possible DPO partner organizations. Clarify goals and planned activities of the BIDC project with country-based stakeholders. Develop a scope of work and timeline, and begin to plan first field visit.

Small grants: Finalize protocol, guidelines, criteria and timeline for announcement, selection and administration of small grants with each Mission. Establish external review committee. Announce grant competition in Guatemala, Ecuador and Albania.

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

Dissemination: Post report describing activities, results, outcomes and recommendations from the three 2006 TA field visits on MIUSA website. Plan participation in meetings with USAID personnel and other professional meetings to be held in 2007.

Conclusion

We look forward to continuing to work closely 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.