

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

Highlights for this quarter of the Building an Inclusive Development Community (BIDC) project include:

- Two week technical assistance field visit to Colombia
- Launched small grants program in Colombia
- Finalized follow-on technical assistance plan for Colombia
- Provided follow-on technical assistance and guidance to project partners in Colombia
- Follow-up communication with USAID/Ethiopia, USAID/Jordan and USAID/Mali
- Planned for up-coming technical assistance visits to Jordan, Ethiopia and Mali
- Worked with Local Coordinators in Ethiopia and Mali to begin activities in-country
- Continued selection process for Local Coordinators in Colombia and Jordan
- Provided regular up-dates to the U.S. DPO collaborators
- BIDC project staff researched and gathered materials to add to the BIDC online resource center

Colombia Field Visit Table of Indicators
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Indicators	2009 October-December
# of people trained Males: Females:	111 people 81 women 30 men
# of people with disabilities trained: Males: Females:	15 6 women 9 men
# of people served Males: Females:	
# of organizations strengthened	27

BIDC Technical Assistance Visit

This quarter MIUSA prepared for and carried out a technical assistance and training visit to Colombia. The activities included:

- ***Introductory Field Visit to Colombia:*** Working closely with USAID/Colombia, the Disability Team at USAID/Washington, the BIDC Project Manager, the BIDC Project Coordinator, Susan Henderson of Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF) and Bruce Curtis from World Institute on Disability (WID) conducted a technical assistance visit to Colombia from October 26-November 6, 2009. The focus of the field visit included:
 - Two inclusive development workshops at USAID/Colombia. The first workshop was a general introduction to inclusive development concepts and an overview of disability and human rights. The second workshop focused on inclusion of people with disabilities in displacement programs and the situation of people with disabilities living in displacement in Colombia.
 - We conducted two technical assistance visits with the International Office for Migration (IOM) in which we provided one-on-one technical assistance to the IOM team on inclusion of people with disabilities in their various programs. The first day-long training included IOM's chief of party and approximately 25 staff members. The second technical assistance visit was more focused and we worked closely with IOM's program staff strategizing ways their programs could be more inclusive.

- MIUSA worked closely with a group of experts from various universities and institutions in Colombia working on the issue of disability and displacement. These individuals were part of the BDC training team and will be key project partners going forward as there are very few experts working on the issue of disability and displacement in Colombia.
- We conducted one technical assistance visit with the Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF) in which we provided training to their team on inclusive development principles, disability and human rights and discussed strategies for making current programs more inclusive of people with disabilities.
- After attending one of MIUSA's workshops, Management Sciences for Development (MSD), a USAID implementing partner from the Democracy and Governance program, requested two meetings with our team. We met with MSD to discuss the connection between disability and human rights, the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) and how people with disabilities could be included in their current or future portfolios.
- We worked closely throughout the visit with Colombian Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) to provide a series of capacity building workshops on inclusive development and coalition building.
- We held an all day workshop with Colombian DPOs on inclusive development covering key principles of inclusion as well as strategies for promoting disability from a human rights perspective.
- We held an all-day workshop with Colombian DPOs on coalition building and partnering with other civil society organizations.
- We held an all day workshop on women's leadership with disabled women activists.
- We held an informational meeting on the small grants program for Colombian DPOs in which we introduced the small grants and discussed ideas for possible projects.
- We met with the Democracy and Governance team at USAID/Colombia who expressed an interest in further technical assistance with MIUSA on inclusion. The team said they would include disability in the current RFP on Access to Justice and pointed to the Democracy and Governance program design process which will begin next year as a great opportunity for working together. There is a political parties program that Gene

Thomas pointed out which could be another opportunity for inclusion of people with disabilities.

- During our field visit to Colombia, the MIUSA BIDC team was able to meet with the Mission Director who took a strong interest in strategizing how the Mission can be more inclusive of people with disabilities going forward and how inclusion can be a part of USAID/Colombia's strategic objectives.
 - MIUSA met with the Colombian Presidential Agency for Cooperation (Accion Social) which is the main government body responsible for displacement issues and a key partner for USAID. We met with Accion Social's representatives responsible for providing services to people with disabilities living in displacement.
 - MIUSA also met with Fundacion Saldarriaga Concha, a capacity building foundation supporting disability service providers as well as DPOs. We strategized possible areas of collaboration through the project as well as outlined main capacity building needs for Colombian DPOs.
- ***Draft follow-on technical assistance plan:*** Since the field visit, MIUSA has drafted a BIDC action plan for follow-on technical assistance and training which was shared with senior staff at the USAID Mission along with members of the BIDC training team.
- ***Follow-on communication and technical assistance:***
- ***Communication with Colombia:*** Since the field visit, MIUSA provided regular follow-on communication to USAID/Colombia, USAID implementing partners and Colombian DPOs. With the Mission, we have been in discussion about how MIUSA can support them in developing a USAID Mission Disability Inclusion Plan working closely with the Disability Team at USAID/Washington. We provided USAID, USAID implementing partners and Colombian DPOs contact information for future networking as well as relevant inclusive development resources. We have been in close communication with the IOM on how we can support them in adopting more inclusive policies. Since the field visit, IOM has partnered with a DPO and submitted a letter of intent for the small grants program and one of their staff members applied to MIUSA's Institute for Leadership Education, Advancement, and Development (I-LEAD) program. We maintained communication with Colombian DPOs sending project up-dates as well as information on the small grants program.

- *Communication with Jordan, Ethiopia and Mali:* MIUSA has maintained regular follow-on communication with USAID/Jordan, the Academy for Educational Development (AED) Jordan in order to plan for up-coming technical assistance visits and identify dates for the visits.
- *Established dates for field visit to Jordan:* Working closely with USAID/Jordan, MIUSA set tentative dates for an introductory field visit to Jordan, scheduled for February 21-March 4, 2010.
- *Communication with Ethiopia:* MIUSA has maintained regular follow-on communication with USAID/Ethiopia in order to plan for up-coming technical assistance visits and to identify dates for the visits and introduce our Local Coordinator to the Mission.
- *Established tentative dates for field visit to Ethiopia and scope of technical assistance:* Working closely with USAID/Ethiopia, MIUSA set dates for an introductory field visit to Addis, tentatively scheduled for the last two weeks of March, 2010. We also identified the focus areas for technical assistance to be on: HIV/AIDS and disability and inclusive education.
- *Communication with Mali:* With support from the Disability Team at USAID/Washington, MIUSA is pleased to have regained contact with USAID/Mali and had a phone call with our new Mission contact in order to identify possible areas of focus for our technical assistance and capacity building activities. Follow-on communication was also used to discuss technical assistance needs in more depth.

Work with U.S. DPO Collaborators:

This quarter, MIUSA provided regular up-dates to the U.S. DPO collaborators including: 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).

- **Communication and planning with U.S. DPO Collaborators:**
 - MIUSA provided regular BIDC up-dates via email and individual phone calls in order to inform them of project activities and plan for their possible participation in future technical assistance visits to Jordan, Ethiopia and Mali.

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 BIDC project staff gathered materials and resources specifically on disability and displacement, emergency response and media as well as identifying inclusive development resources translated into Spanish to be added to the Resource Center. BIDC project staff continued to draft one page tip sheets that provide up-to-date information and resources on the inclusion of people with disabilities in various development sectors. Once finalized, the draft tip sheets will be shared with U.S. DPO collaborators as well as inclusive development specialists for their inputs and suggestions. With their feedback, the tip sheets will be posted on the Resource Center.

The Resource Center can be accessed through MIUSA's website:
<http://www.miusa.org/idd/IDDresourcecenter>

Activities planned for next quarter

In the next quarter, MIUSA will:

- **Continue planning and conduct technical assistance training visit to Jordan:** MIUSA will work closely with USAID/Jordan to plan and prepare for a two week technical assistance visit. MIUSA will work closely with US DPO collaborators as well as other experts joining the MIUSA training team in Jordan to prepare for the trip.
- **Continue planning and conduct technical assistance training visit to Ethiopia:** MIUSA will work closely with USAID/Ethiopia to plan and prepare for a two week technical assistance visit. MIUSA will work closely with US DPO collaborators as well as other experts joining the MIUSA training team in Ethiopia to prepare for the trip. MIUSA will also work closely with our Local Coordinator to coordinate logistics planning for the trip.
- **Draft follow-on technical assistance plans for Jordan and Ethiopia:** Develop technical assistance and capacity building follow-on plans for Jordan and Ethiopia based on the needs identified during the technical assistance field visits and in close consultation with USAID/Jordan, USAID/Ethiopia, the USAID Disability Team, U.S. DPO collaborators and other members of the technical assistance training teams
- **Announce small grants competition in Jordan and Ethiopia:** MIUSA will work closely with USAID missions and Local Coordinators in each BIDC country to announce a small grants program during the technical assistance field visits.

- **Invite small grant applicants in Colombia to submit full proposals:** MIUSA will work closely with the Local Coordinator, USAID/Colombia, US DPO collaborators and in-country DPO partners not participating in the small grants program for guidance on selecting applicants to submit full proposals.
- **Recruit Local Coordinator for Colombia:** Continue the selection process for a Local Coordinator in Colombia. MIUSA has identified several final candidates and expects to make a final selection early in the next quarter.
- **Follow-on technical assistance in Colombia:** MIUSA will continue to provide follow-on technical assistance in Colombia with support from the Local Coordinator. MIUSA will work closely with USAID/Colombia and the Disability Team at USAID/Washington to support the mission in developing a Disability Inclusion Plan.
- **Work with U.S. DPO Collaborators:**
 - Continue to provide regular BDC updates to U.S. DPO collaborators and get their inputs and suggestions for the BDC technical assistance and training
 - Gather U.S. DPO collaborator's inputs on and availability to participate in technical assistance visits
 - Share results of field visits to Jordan and Ethiopia
- **Continue to work closely with Local BDC Project Coordinators:** The Local Coordinators will assist with logistical arrangements for technical assistance field visits and facilitate announcement of the small grants.
- **Recruit Local Coordinator for Jordan:** MIUSA will meet with and interview several candidates for Local Coordinator during our technical assistance visit to Jordan
- **Send out an IDD e-news update on BDC project activities**
- **Continue to update the BDC online Resource Center with inclusive development tools.**
- **Participate in InterAction Disability Working Group conference call to plan for an inclusive development workshop at the InterAction Forum in June 2010.**

Challenges and unexpected results:

MIUSA faced some challenges this quarter in terms of communication with USAID Missions. Due to a long delay in communication with USAID/Mali, with guidance from the Disability Team, we sent the Mission a deadline to respond

to us as to whether or not they would like to participate in the BDC project. When we didn't hear from them by the deadline, we began reconfiguring our project planning with no implementation in Mali. However, with support from the Disability Team, we were able to regain communication with a new contact at USAID/Mali. MIUSA held an informative phone call with our new contact to introduce them to the project, provide background information on the introductory visit and review the technical assistance and capacity building action plan with them. MIUSA is pleased to be implementing the project in Mali but the delay in communication and the time it has taken to get new Mission staff up to speed has had an impact on our project timeline.

Our main contact at USAID/Jordan was out of the country for most of December so we were not able to get final confirmation on the dates of our field visit or detailed feedback on the focus of our technical assistance. However, MIUSA has had extensive communication with AED Jordan who will be supporting our logistics planning for our field visit to Jordan.

Our main contact at USAID/Colombia will be going on maternity leave in early January. We submitted a follow-on technical assistance plan to our contact before her departure asking for feedback on how we can best support the Mission going forward. MIUSA is eager to gain contact with our new point person at the Mission once they are in place to maintain the continuity of the project.

We faced some unexpected challenges in defining the role of the Local Coordinator and the activities they should undertake prior to our technical assistance visits. After much consideration, we decided that the focus of tasks for Local Coordinators should be solely around logistics and coordination of up-coming technical assistance field visits. Then, while in-country, we can work with them to define more specifically the follow-on support role they will take on. This also allows MIUSA the opportunity to work with Local Coordinators in-country and to analyze whether or not they are the right fit for taking on a follow-on support role.

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.