

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
July-September 2010

Submitted by:
Cerise Roth-Vinson,
Chief Operating Officer,
Mobility International USA (MIUSA)
132 E. Broadway, Suite 343, Eugene, OR 97401
Tel/tty: 541-343-1284
Email: crothvinson@miusa.org

Project goals

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

Accomplishments

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

- Providing follow-on technical assistance and guidance to project partners in Ethiopia after two-week technical assistance visit in June
- Providing follow-on technical assistance and guidance to project partners in Jordan
- Providing follow-on technical assistance and guidance to project partners in Colombia
- Supervising start of small grants in Colombia and conducted ongoing monitoring of these projects
- Accepting and reviewing Letters of Intent for small grants competition in Ethiopia
- Inviting full proposals from ten applicants for small grants in Ethiopia
- Forming a small grant review panel and working closely with USAID/Ethiopia, U.S. DPO collaborators, and other relevant actors in the review process to begin to assess small grant proposals
- Conducting follow-up communication with USAID/Ethiopia, USAID/Jordan, and USAID/Colombia
- Training new staff joining the project
- Working with Local Coordinators in Ethiopia and Colombia to carry out activities in-country
- Contracting with a Local Coordinator in Jordan

- Researching and gathering materials to add to the BDC online Resource Center
- Conducting preparation and arranging logistics for a field visit to Colombia during the next quarter
- Hosting the five-day Gender, Disability and Development Institute (GDDI)
- Sending a BDC project staff member to present on disability inclusion at the International Office for Migration’s Guatemala Workshop on Gender, Vulnerable Populations and Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean

Table of Indicators

Indicators	2010 July-September
# of people trained Females: Males:	113 people 101 women 12 men
# of people with disabilities trained Females: Males:	81 people with disabilities 76 women with disabilities 5 men with disabilities
# of people served Females: Males:	315 people 212 women 103 men
# of organizations strengthened	186 organizations

Technical assistance

This quarter MIUSA provided follow-on technical assistance and communication to project partners in Ethiopia, Colombia, and Jordan.

- ***Follow-on technical assistance and communication with Ethiopia:*** After the field visit in June 2010, MIUSA provided regular follow-on assistance to USAID/Ethiopia, USAID implementing partners, and Ethiopian DPOs:
 - MIUSA worked extensively with USAID/Ethiopia since the field visit by developing a follow-on plan for activities targeting USAID/Ethiopia, implementing partners and DPOs. The Local Coordinator has been conducting weekly visits with the USAID/Ethiopia Mission to develop a Mission Disability Inclusion Action Plan. This disability inclusion action plan includes appointing a disability focal point and possible “Mission order” on inclusion.
 - MIUSA also provided technical assistance to USAID implementing partners who received training during the June visit. Specifically, MIUSA provided contact lists for participants in the training as well as sending

out action plan commitments received from implementing partners during one-on-one training conducted during the trip. MIUSA also sent implementing partners resources for including people with disabilities in development projects, particularly concerning accessible communication, reasonable accommodation, and strategies for inclusive recruitment.

- MIUSA has continued to work closely with the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD) and Ethiopian Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) making site visits to DPO offices to learn more about the work they are doing in Ethiopia.
 - MIUSA provided long-distance technical assistance and support through our Local Coordinator to Ethiopian DPOs considering applying for the small grants program. MIUSA offered guidance concerning topics and formats, and encouraged the formation of constructive partnerships with development actors.
 - In response to an open request process, MIUSA received 25 letters of intent to apply for small grant awards. From this pool of interested applicants, ten organizations were invited to submit full proposals for BIDC small grants in Ethiopia. MIUSA provided support and guidance to applicant organizations, suggesting ways in which to strengthen their projects to meet the objectives of the BIDC project and broader inclusive development.
 - MIUSA invited DPO collaborators, local experts, and international development and disability experts to participate on the small grant review panel for Ethiopia. As of the end of this quarter, the small grant review panel was busy reviewing the full proposals. MIUSA will make final selections in the next quarter.
- ***Follow-on technical assistance and communication with Colombia:*** MIUSA has continued to provide regular follow-on communication to USAID/Colombia, USAID implementing partners and Colombian DPOs:
- MIUSA continued to provide support and technical assistance to the USAID/Colombia office during this quarter. In particular, MIUSA transitioned information about the project to the new USAID contact person so that they are familiar with the BIDC goals and project impact. During this quarter MIUSA provided technical resources concerning disability inclusion, reasonable accommodation, recruitment, and accessible communication.
 - MIUSA continued to work with the International Office of Migration (IOM) to provide support and resources on adopting more inclusive policies. This quarter, working closely with our Local Coordinator, MIUSA organized numerous meetings with IOM to discuss how to include people

with disabilities in their programs. In particular an August training session brought together IOM staff, a representative from the Colombian Ministry of Social Protection, key disabled leaders, and the MIUSA Local Coordinator to discuss concepts around and types of disability as well as ways to effect inclusion in projects.

- MIUSA is supporting IOM on an initiative to hold inclusive emergency response sessions within a regional IOM conference series on gender inclusion in emergency response programs. During this quarter, a MIUSA staff member participated in the Guatemala workshop and presented on including people with disabilities in emergency response planning.
 - MIUSA continues to participate in the working group around disability and displacement issues in Colombia. The group is made up of activists, professors and lawyers that MIUSA worked closely with during the first technical assistance and training visit to Colombia.
 - The small grants projects selected in Colombia started their programs during this quarter. MIUSA is providing support to the DPOs through our Local Coordinator who meets regularly with the organizations to monitor and offer guidance on the projects.
- ***Follow-on technical assistance and communication with Jordan:*** MIUSA has been in regular contact with USAID/Jordan, USAID implementing partners, and Jordanian DPOs including the following activities:
- MIUSA has been discussing resources and strategies for developing a Disability Inclusion Action Plan with the Mission, inclusive language for solicitations and inclusive human resource tools on recruitment, accessibility and budgeting for reasonable accommodation. MIUSA has also been working closely with USAID/Jordan to plan follow-on activities and the focus of our next technical assistance visit, which will focus on inclusive education, inclusive women's health, and including disabled youth in youth targeted programs.
 - MIUSA provided USAID/Jordan's Education Office advice on inclusive language for a Terms of Reference on assessing Jordanian policies on education and inclusion.
 - MIUSA has been in communication with USAID implementing partners, Mercy Corps, International Youth Foundation (IYF), and Abt Associates to provide resources and guidance as they move forward on their commitments to inclusion. MIUSA were also in communication with USAID implementing partner AED to discuss progress on their inclusive elections initiatives.
 - MIUSA continues to provide support to the disability leaders that MIUSA made contact with during our field visit.

- MIUSA is in contact with USAID/Jordan, USAID implementing partners and Jordanian DPOs to plan for our next technical assistance visit to Jordan.
- MIUSA hired a Local Coordinator in Jordan to provide in-country support to USAID/Jordan, USAID implementing partners, and DPOs. She will also be instrumental in helping plan for our next technical assistance visit.
- ***Follow-on technical assistance and communication with Mali:*** MIUSA officially requested permission from USAID/Washington to re-direct our energies into technical assistance for Colombia, Ethiopia, and Jordan. The request was approved and MIUSA received confirmation from USAID/Washington that the BIDC project would no longer include Mali.

Small grants program:

- ***Colombia:*** This quarter MIUSA provided support and guidance to the four organizations awarded small grants in Colombia. Our Local Coordinator in Bogota meets regularly with the awardees—Surcoe, Fundamental Colombia, CALEM, and ASDOWN—as well as their respective development partners.
- ***Ethiopia:*** After extensively publicizing the small grants program in Ethiopia during our field visit and since, MIUSA accepted letters of intent from DPOs and parent advocacy initiatives. These applications represented a wide variety of cross-disability initiatives, many of which showed strong potential partnerships with development organizations. MIUSA invited organizations to submit full proposals, which were still being evaluated by the small grant review panel as of the end of this quarter. Awards are anticipated to be announced early in the next quarter.

Work with U.S. DPO Collaborators:

This quarter, MIUSA invited U.S. DPO collaborators including: Disability Rights Education Defense Fund (DREDF), the U.S. International Council on Disability (USICD), and the World Institute on Disability (WID) to participate in our small grants review panel. USICD, DREDF and WID participated actively in the panel during this quarter, providing helpful feedback and constructive inputs on the small grant full proposals received from Ethiopia.

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 rights in

the Middle East, relationship building, and disability in emergency response to be added to the Resource Center. MIUSA has compiled an extensive inclusive development resource CD which we disseminated during the Gender, Disability and Development Institute (GDDI).

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

Gender, Disability and Development Institute (GDDI)

In August, MIUSA hosted 54 women with disabilities from 43 countries at the Gender, Disability and Development Institute (GDDI), a five-day institute that brought disability activists from around the world together as part of the 5th International Women's Institute on Leadership and Disability (WILD) hosted by Mobility International USA. Representatives from the U.S. Department of State and USAID participated actively in GDDI, with Judith Heumann, Special Advisor to the U.S. Department of State on International Disability Rights, and MIUSA's BIDD grant officer Sue Eitel sharing strategies for furthering the goals of inclusive development.

USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah sent a message to GDDI, remarking that "full participation of women and girls with disabilities is vital to effective development policy and practice." Administrator Shah's message was appreciated by the attendees and communicated the importance of including women with disabilities in all development projects. Various international development agencies were also represented at GDDI, demonstrating a widespread commitment to inclusive development by key development actors such as Mercy Corps, Chemonics, World Vision, and Accion International. GDDI participants from BIDD project countries of Colombia, Ethiopia, and Jordan were particularly active in the initiative as they have already been working on the BIDD project and inclusive development trainings. Disabled leaders and development representatives alike noted that GDDI deepened their interest in, understanding of, and ability to advocate for inclusive development projects. MIUSA is conducting follow-on technical assistance to leverage these partnerships toward inclusive development practices in countries where BIDD is currently working.

Activities planned for next quarter

In the next quarter, MIUSA will:

- **Plan and carry out a mini-consultation visit to Colombia:** In order to re-connect with the USAID/Colombia Mission, MIUSA is planning a small-scale, high-impact consultation trip to Colombia. During this trip, MIUSA will work closely with various offices within the USAID/Colombia Mission to discuss disability inclusion and start developing a Disability Inclusion Plan. MIUSA will also meet with USAID implementing partners and local DPOs, and conduct interim monitoring of the small grants projects in Colombia.

- **Draft follow-on technical assistance plans for Colombia:** Based on needs identified during the field visit, MIUSA will develop technical assistance and capacity building follow-on plans for future activities in Colombia. These plans will be drafted in close consultation with USAID/Colombia, the USAID Disability Team, U.S. DPO collaborators, the field visit consultant, and the Local Coordinator.
- **Follow-on technical assistance in Colombia:** Based on the follow-on technical assistance plan, MIUSA will work closely with in-country partners, USAID/Colombia, and our Local Coordinator to provide follow-on support and communication. We will continue to work closely with IOM this next quarter to provide support and guidance on inclusive initiatives.
- **Small grant monitoring and support in Colombia:** MIUSA will work closely with the Local Coordinator to monitor the small grants. This next quarter we will also provide support to small grantees as they prepare their interim project reports.
- **Follow-on technical assistance in Jordan:** MIUSA will continue to provide follow-on technical assistance in Jordan. MIUSA will work closely with USAID/Jordan and the Disability Team at USAID/Washington to support the mission in developing a Disability Inclusion Plan. This will include re-designing how we implement the small grants program in Jordan as the USAID/Jordan Mission has advised against implementing small grants directly due to Civil Society laws that make it difficult for local NGOs to receive foreign funding.
- **Plan the next 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 U.S. DPO collaborators as well as other experts joining the MIUSA training team to prepare for the trip. MIUSA will also work closely with the Local Coordinator to coordinate logistics planning for the trip.
- **Follow-on technical assistance in Ethiopia:** Based on the follow-on technical assistance plan, MIUSA will continue to work closely with in-country partners, USAID/Ethiopia and the Local Coordinator to provide follow-on support and communication in the next quarter. In particular, MIUSA will continue to work with USAID/Ethiopia in the development and implementation of a USAID Mission Disability Inclusion Action Plan. This initiative is being supported by the BIDC Local Coordinator in Addis Ababa and the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development, a local DPO.
- **Award small grants in Ethiopia:** MIUSA will work closely with USAID/Ethiopia and the Local Coordinator, along with the small grant review panel, to finalize the selection of small grantees for Ethiopia.

- **Work with U.S. DPO Collaborators:**
 - Continue to provide regular BIDC updates to U.S. DPO collaborators and solicit their inputs and suggestions for the BIDC technical assistance and training
 - Gather U.S. DPO collaborator's inputs on and availability to participate in technical assistance visits

- **Continue to work closely with Local BIDC Project Coordinators:** The Local Coordinators in Colombia, Ethiopia, and Jordan will assist with logistical arrangements for technical assistance field visits and facilitate announcement of the small grants. They will also continue to provide invaluable follow-up support and in-country communication between USAID, implementing partners, and DPOs.

- **Promote inclusion with development organizations at U.S. headquarter level:** MIUSA will continue to work at the headquarter level with development actors that received technical assistance during our in-country visits to Ethiopia, Colombia, and Jordan. MIUSA will also work with development actors who participated in GDDI and through contacts at InterAction. MIUSA hopes to encourage these development actors to institute disability inclusion related policies and indicators for their country offices.

- **Disseminate an IDD e-news update** on BIDC project activities

- **Continue to update the BIDC online Resource Center** with inclusive development tools

Challenges and unexpected results

MIUSA experienced some challenges this quarter in terms of communication with USAID Missions. We continued to have long delays in communication with USAID/Mali which made it challenging to plan our first technical assistance visit. As a result of insurmountable barriers to constructive communication, in close consultation with USAID/Washington, a decision was made that Mali will no longer participate in the BIDC project.

MIUSA continued to face limited communication with USAID/Colombia since our primary contact transitioned out of the Mission. In the latter part of this quarter MIUSA experienced increased engagement from our new contact at the Mission and hope that our mini-consultation visit, planned for October 2010, will increase Mission understanding of and support for the BIDC project. MIUSA is optimistic that this will galvanize progress towards development of a Disability Inclusion Plan.

MIUSA also experienced delays in scheduling the next technical assistance visit to Jordan because our main contact is leaving the Mission early in the next quarter. As a result, the Mission has requested MIUSA postpone the next technical assistance visit until our contact's replacement has arrived and settled at the Mission. MIUSA anticipates this to be early 2011 and will continue to plan for the next technical assistance visit during the next quarter.

Conclusion

MIUSA is 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.