

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
October-December, 2010

Submitted by:

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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:

- Conducting a technical assistance visit to Colombia in October 2010
- Providing follow-on assistance and guidance to project partners in Colombia after the October visit
- Providing follow-on technical assistance and guidance to project partners in Jordan
- Providing follow-on technical assistance and guidance to project partners in Ethiopia
- Conducting ongoing monitoring of small grants projects in Colombia
- Providing feedback and follow-on guidance concerning interim reports received from small grants recipients in Colombia
- Working closely with USAID/Ethiopia, U.S. Disabled People's Organizations (DPO) collaborators, and other relevant actors to assess small grant proposals from Ethiopia
- Selecting four small grants recipient organizations in Ethiopia
- Conducting follow-up communication with USAID/Ethiopia, USAID/Jordan, and USAID/Colombia
- Working with our Local Coordinators in Ethiopia, Jordan, and Colombia to carry out activities in-country
- Researching and gathering materials for the BIDC Online Resource Center
- Planning the redesign of the BIDC Online Resource Center and inclusive development tools in order to make them and the BIDC website more user-friendly and practical
- Disseminating an end-of year IDD e-news update on BIDC project activities

Table of Indicators

Indicators	2010 October-December
# of people trained Females: Males:	124 people trained 48 females 76 males
# of people with disabilities trained Females: Males:	50 people with disabilities trained 24 females 26 males
# of people served Females: Males:	152 people served 67 females 85 males
# of organizations strengthened	23 organizations

BIDC Technical Assistance Visit

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

- **Technical Field Visit to Colombia:** Working closely with USAID/Colombia, our Local Coordinator, and the BIDC Project team, MIUSA conducted a technical assistance visit to Colombia from October 18-22, 2010.
- The technical assistance visit was carried out by Susie Grimes, international development and disability consultant and former MIUSA staff member, with the support of the BIDC Project team in the U.S. and our Local Coordinator in Colombia.
- The focus of the field visit included:
 - Technical assistance for USAID staff at the Mission in Colombia
 - The first meeting focused on the BIDC project and USAID’s goals and objectives regarding disability.
 - The second meeting involved a formal presentation and discussions with invited guests from selected DPOs.
 - Staff who attended the meetings included the Acting Deputy Mission Director as well as representatives from the following offices: Vulnerable Populations, Transition Initiatives, Consolidations, Livelihoods, and Environment, Acquisition and Assistance, Democracy and Human Rights, and the Program Office.
 - Disability inclusion Action Planning with key USAID staff, including the Acting Deputy Director at USAID/Colombia, revealed an interest in writing a comprehensive Disability Action Plan for the Mission which will be applied across all

sectors. The Mission already includes disability language in solicitations and would like to track disability disaggregated data on people with disabilities served in USAID-funded programs.

- MIUSA worked with Mission staff on preliminary strategies for drafting a Mission Disability Inclusion Action Plan and confirmed the appointment of a Disability Focal Point.
- Technical assistance for the International Office of Migration (IOM), a key USAID implementing partner. These included discussions with IOM Colombia's Chief of Mission, as well as the Director of Health, Gender and Migration. Discussions focused on disability as a human right and a cross-cutting issue, the untapped resources offered by DPOs, and current and potential collaborations between IOM and in-country DPOs. IOM Colombia is very committed to improving accessibility in their programs and has organized a focal group to work on disability across programs.
- Meetings with FENESCOL (the National Federation of the Deaf of Colombia) President and staff members at FENASCOL office. During this visit, Susie Grimes was interviewed about the BIDC project and inclusive development in general. The interview (in sign language with Spanish and English translation) was available on FENASCOL's website for a short time but has been taken down due to sound problems.
- Visits to all four projects sponsored by BIDC small grants. MIUSA observed training sessions being conducted as part of the small grants projects. Susie Grimes was also able to talk directly with program participants to gain feedback on projects to date. Furthermore, she talked with the small grants recipients and their partner organizations to discuss the projects, value of partnerships, and potential future activities.

BIDC Follow-on Communication and Technical Assistance

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

- ***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 spent time preparing the Mission for our site visit and provided follow-on assistance with key Mission personnel after the visit.

- 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. Monthly meetings furthered the goal of inclusion, with MIUSA's Local Coordinator devoting more time to providing assistance and DPO contacts to IOM staff. Our Local Coordinator is also assisting IOM and the Colombian Ministry of Social Protection to create an information and advocacy program prioritizing inclusion.
 - MIUSA continued 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 projects selected for small grants in Colombia continued their programs and submitted interim reports this quarter. MIUSA is providing support to these DPOs through our Local Coordinator, who meets regularly with the organizations to monitor and offer guidance on the projects. A brief summary of each project is included later in the report.
- ***Communication with Ethiopia:*** Since the June 2010 field visit, MIUSA has provided regular follow-on assistance to USAID/Ethiopia, USAID implementing partners, and Ethiopian DPOs:
- MIUSA continued to provide support to USAID/Ethiopia, working according to the follow-on plan created in coordination with the Mission after our June 2010 visit. As part of this plan, our Local Coordinator meets weekly with USAID/Ethiopia to assist in developing a Disability Inclusion Action Plan for the Mission.
 - MIUSA worked closely with the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development (ECDD) this quarter. In December, we concluded an eight-month contract with ECDD to conduct training sessions for USAID/Ethiopia Mission personnel, USAID implementing partners, and DPO staff on inclusive development and how to actively further inclusion in programs.
 - MIUSA continued to provide technical support to USAID implementing partners in Ethiopia. For example, a training session on inclusion was held for IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) in November.
 - With the assistance of invited U.S. DPO collaborators, in-country experts, and international development and disability experts who participated in the review panel, we made a final selection on small grants for Ethiopia. After receiving nine full proposals that were all very strong, MIUSA awarded four small grants, with specific feedback and guidance to each grantee on areas of their projects that needed improvement to meet small grant goals. Grantees provided strong revised project plans and began work on their projects. (See detail on grantee organizations and projects below.)

- **Communication with Jordan:** MIUSA has been in contact with USAID/Jordan, USAID implementing partners, and Jordanian DPOs including the following activities:
 - MIUSA has been in communication with USAID implementing partners as they move forward on their commitments to inclusion. This quarter we had regular discussions with AED to discuss progress on their inclusive elections initiatives before and after the November parliamentary elections.
 - MIUSA continued to provide technical support to the disability leaders that MIUSA made contact with during our field visit in 2010.
 - MIUSA is maintaining contact with USAID/Jordan, USAID implementing partners and Jordanian DPOs to plan for our next technical assistance visit to Jordan. With the cooperation of the Mission, our next visit aims to focus on inclusive education, inclusive women's health, and including disabled youth in youth-targeted programs.
 - Working closely with USAID/Jordan and the Disability Team at USAID/Washington, MIUSA reprogrammed the Jordan small grant funds to be used for additional technical assistance.
- **Reallocating BDC Resources:** Following USAID/Washington's approval of our request to re-direct resources from Mali into other BDC countries, MIUSA has been working on a plan to reallocate those resources appropriately to maximize project impact in the long-term.

Small Grants Program

- **Colombia:** This quarter MIUSA provided support and guidance to the four organizations awarded small grants in Colombia and received their interim reports. A summary of their activities and achievements as of the end of November follows:
 - **Surcoe** (the National Association of the Deafblind of Colombia) conducted leadership training for nine Deafblind activists (two women and seven men). Issues dealt with in training included disability and human rights approaches, teamwork, and community organizing. Surcoe also engaged in meetings with their partner organization, the Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement (CODHES), to maximize collaboration in the process. Participants in Surcoe's training subsequently presented on a range of topics for displaced persons in a forum convened by CODHES.
 - **FundaMental Colombia** provided training seminars for persons with psychosocial disabilities and focal point staff members of the International Office for Migration (IOM). FundaMental also received support from the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP), highlighting the collaborative elements of the project. This quarter, FundaMental Colombia directly trained 21 people (13 women and eight men) while creating new partnerships with universities, government ministries, and civil society organizations.

- **CALEM** (The Center of Attention for Individuals with Spinal Injuries) conducted workshops on gender, identity, rights, and disability in order to strengthen the confidence and leadership of 12 women with disabilities. With the participation of FENASCOL (the National Federation of the Deaf of Colombia) and The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, CALEM is developing a network of women with disabilities which does not currently exist in Colombia.
- **Asdown** (the Colombian Association for Down’s Syndrome) started research on the how various national and international development agencies include people with disabilities in their programs. The project also involves education regarding the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and disability inclusion, and is being conducted with the involvement of project partner Inclusion International.
- **Ethiopia:** This quarter MIUSA finalized the small grant competition in Ethiopia, awarding four small grants to organizations partnering with development actors on inclusive development initiatives. The projects we are supporting include:
 - **ENAB**, the Ethiopian National Association of the Blind, is working with PACT Ethiopia to include people with visual impairments in education-focused projects. In particular, they will produce training manuals and conduct training for PACT staff members.
 - **ENAD**, the Ethiopian National Association of the Deaf, is providing training on inclusive project development, focusing on inclusion of people who are deaf. The project is being carried out with Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR-Ethiopia) and will include workshops on disability rights, disabled women’s issues, and inclusive HIV/AIDS services.
 - **ENAID**, the Ethiopian National Association on Intellectual Disability, is a Parent Advocacy group working with Oxfam Canada and a local development organization, Ashten Children Support Organization. ENAID is holding public workshops on disability, particularly the rights of people with intellectual disabilities.
 - **ECIL**, the Ethiopian Centre for Independent Living, is partnering with the National AIDS Resource Center to provide people with disabilities access to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment.

Work with U.S. DPO Collaborators

MIUSA’s U.S. DPO collaborators were actively involved during October in reviewing the nine Ethiopian small grant proposals. Representatives from the Disability Rights Education Defense Fund (DREDF), the U.S. International Council on Disability (USICD), and the World Institute on Disability (WID) provided invaluable feedback on small grant proposals.

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 sub-Saharan Africa, reproductive health, and coalition-building to be added to the Resource Center. MIUSA also planned the redesign of the Online Resource Center in order to make it more user-friendly.

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

Activities Planned for Next Quarter

In the next quarter, MIUSA will:

- **Plan and carry out a technical assistance visit to Jordan:** In order to re-connect with the USAID/Jordan Mission and further enhance the DPO and USAID implementing partner relationships developed during the 2010 visit, MIUSA is planning a technical assistance and training trip to Jordan for the latter half of the next quarter. During this trip, MIUSA will work closely with various offices within the USAID/Jordan 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 training specific to the needs of the Mission and partners in country.
- **Follow-on technical assistance in Colombia:** Based on needs identified during the October 2010 field visit, 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 move into the second half of their project period.
- **Small grant monitoring and support in Ethiopia:** MIUSA will monitor and provide guidance to the small grants projects in Ethiopia. During the next quarter the small grant recipients will be submitting their interim reports so we will work closely with our Local Coordinator to provide support on narrative and financial reporting requirements.
- **Follow-on technical assistance in Ethiopia:** Based on the follow-on technical assistance plan, MIUSA will continue to work closely with USAID/Ethiopia, in-country partners, 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. With the support of the BDC Local Coordinator in Addis Ababa and the Ethiopian Center for Disability and Development, training sessions and follow-up activities on inclusion will be conducted for the USAID Mission and our in-country partners.

- **Work with U.S. DPO Collaborators:**
 - Continue to provide regular BDC updates to U.S. DPO collaborators and solicit their inputs and suggestions for BDC technical assistance and training.
 - Solicit U.S. DPO collaborator's inputs on upcoming technical assistance visits, inviting their direct participation in accordance with specific expertise required for the trips.
- **Continue to work closely with Local BDC Project Coordinators:** The Local Coordinators in Colombia, Ethiopia, and Jordan will assist with logistical arrangements for technical assistance field visits and monitoring of small grants projects. 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 MIUSA's 2010 Gender, Disability and Development Institute 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 a quarterly IDD e-news update** on BDC project activities.
- **Continue to update the BDC Online Resource Center** with inclusive development tools.

Challenges and Unexpected Results

MIUSA experienced some challenges this quarter in terms of communication with USAID Missions, in particular USAID/Jordan. Since our primary contact transitioned out of the Mission at the beginning of the quarter, we have dealt with delays in scheduling the next technical assistance visit. While we anticipate our contact's replacement arriving early in the next quarter, we are continuing to press for constructive engagement with the interim contact person and are optimistic that we will conduct another technical assistance and training visit during the next quarter.

MIUSA faced limited communication with USAID/Colombia prior to our visit this quarter. However, there was dramatically increased Mission understanding of and commitment to the objectives of the BDC project following the visit. Despite time and work pressures on our Mission contact, we have maintained constructive communication and hope to see marked progress towards the development of a Disability Inclusion Plan in 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.