

Disability inclusion in international development programmes

Sightsavers works with partners in over 30 countries to eliminate avoidable blindness and support the empowerment of people with disabilities to learn, earn and participate equally in society.



Global disability



Globally more than one billion people

are living with a disability ¹



426 million people

with disabilities in developing countries live below the poverty line ²



The global literacy rate for women with disabilities is believed to be as low as

1%³

Development programmes that include women, girls, men and boys with disabilities are vital to ensure that no one is left behind.

World Report on Disability, World Health Organization and World Bank (2011), p. 28

^{2.} Report of the Secretary-General, Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities, through the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, A/64/189, July 2009, para. 17.

^{3.} United Nations Enable website. (2006). Some facts about persons with disabilities New York: Department of Social and Economic Affairs (DESA). http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/facts.shtml (Used by Sightsavers: Written Evidence to the International Development Select Committee on 'Disability and Development', December 2013. Page 4)

Why Sightsavers?

- We take a sustainable, system-strengthening, evidence based approach, aimed at building capacity of health and education systems
- We have well-established partnerships with ministries of education, ministries of health, the private sector and local civil society including disabled people's organisations
- We are influencers in the development and implementation of disability inclusive health and education policy frameworks
- We design programmes in collaboration with people with disabilities
- We advocate for inclusive political systems where women and men with disabilities can participate equally
- We promote and implement the inclusion of people with disabilities in mainstream economic empowerment initiatives
- We are innovators in disability data disaggregation and research to strengthen limited evidence base

Inclusive health

Our innovative disability inclusive eye health initiative in Bhopal is aimed at developing a model that will inform inclusive health programmes.



Economic empowerment

Our award-winning, Big Lottery Fund and European Union-funded employment programme has reached hundreds of young people with disabilities in Uganda.

Political participation

In Cameroon and Senegal we are implementing Irish Aid-funded political participation projects which aim to achieve greater political engagement by women and men with disabilities.



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Early childhood development

In partnership with Comic Relief, we are promoting early childhood development for young children with disabilities in remote, rural districts of Malawi.



Who we work with













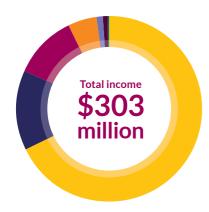








Our finances



\$205.5m	Gifts in kind (including Mectizan® tablets)
\$42.3m	Grants from governments/NGOs
\$33.3m	Individuals
\$15.2m	Legacies
\$3.4	Trusts and foundations
\$2.6	Companies
\$0.7m	Other

Our people

Caroline Harper, Sightsavers CEO

"Ensuring access to education and employment for people with disabilities in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities will only be possible if we work closely with local Ministries, donors and other NGOs."



Disability inclusion experts



Tracy Vaughan Gough Social Inclusion Global Technical Lead



Guv Le Fanu Education Global Technical Lead

Find out more

To work with our highly experienced grant management team, contact Director of Institutional Funding, Anna Becker on abecker@sightsavers.org.

Visit www.sightsavers.org/policy-and-research to read our strategy documents on inclusion and education.

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