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Integrating Social Inclusion into Country-Level Analysis

We are always on the lookout for new resources to better understand social inclusion and how it is being applied and considered in a variety of international development settings. Maitreyi Das of the World Bank Group’s Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Practice Group shared her July 2016 paper “Social Inclusion in Macro-Level Diagnostics: Reflecting on the World Bank Group’s Early Systematic Country Diagnostics” and we think you’ll agree that it is an
excellent resource to glean lessons about the extent to which social inclusion is or is not considered into country-level assessments. The paper reviews the World Bank Group’s 17 Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCDs), which are undertaken before Country Partnership Frameworks are determined. There are three pillars of SCDs and inclusion is part of the framework as it relates to inclusiveness of growth. While inclusion and social inclusion are similar, the paper distills the difference between “inclusion” and “social inclusion” as conceptualized in the Inclusion Matters report. Whereas inclusion “does not readily lend itself to a clear focus on groups that are likely to be left out, much less to a focus on social identity,” (Das 7) social inclusion does. Analysis of the SCDs goes beyond searching for “inclusion” in the report. Maitreyi Das considered four questions: “Who is excluded? How are they excluded? Why are they excluded? What can be done to include them?” (Das 12). All of the SCDs answered the first question – “who?” - for at least one identity group. For “how?” “few SCDs actually address the practices through which exclusion occurs” (Das 14). As for “why?”, most analysis focuses on “governance failures and is not usually linked to the exclusion of specific groups” (Das 14). Panama and three Eastern Europe countries included recommendations for an identity group other than women.

There are several key takeaways that we can apply to the TAAP Inclusion approach. Excluded groups often have multiple layered identities that contribute to exclusion. The Panama SCD “notes that territories inhabited by indigenous peoples lag behind in outcomes such as poverty reduction and life expectancy” (Das 17-18). These intersectionalities are vital to include in the TAAP approach. Additionally, there is wide variation among which groups are mentioned as being excluded. The Serbia SCD is the only one to mention sexual identity as being an excluded group. Additionally, while the SCDs mention at least one identity group being excluded, there is not necessarily analysis of how exclusion occurs. An effective “analysis would have to include not just the presence or absence of opportunities, but also whether the social structures allow or disallow groups excluded on account of their identity, to take up such opportunities” (Das 21). The paper also offers recommendations for those looking to integrate social inclusion in future analyses. Recommendations include establishing a diverse research team, reviewing existing literature, using mixed methods including qualitative methods, identifying data gaps and asking “why” exclusion is occurring. All of these lessons are important to consider as we are finalizing and envisioning future application of the TAAP Framework and Toolkit.

Interested in learning more about this from M. Das herself? RSVP to attend “SCDs & Social Inclusion: How are We Doing?” Tuesday, September 27, 12:30-
Special Feature from Women’s Refugee Commission (WRG): Advancing the Agency of Refugee Women and Girls with Disabilities in Activism Against Gender-based Violence

Nearly 10 million persons with disabilities are living in situations of forced displacement worldwide.[i] The World Health Organization reports that rates of violence are 4-10 times greater among persons with disabilities than non-disabled persons in developed countries. [ii] In precarious settings, gender-based violence (GBV), particularly sexual violence and exploitation against displaced women and girls with disabilities, is heightened as social, community and state protection mechanisms are weakened.[iii]

Against this backdrop, the Women’s Refugee Commission (WRC) partnered with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to implement a project to improve access and inclusion of persons with disabilities and their caregivers in humanitarian aid programs addressing GBV in Burundi, Ethiopia, Jordan, and Northern Caucasus. Consistent with the TAAP framework, the WRC applied an iterative and participatory process throughout all phases of the project. The process began by first listening to women, girls, men and boys with disabilities to learn about the types of violence and rights violations experienced by them and their caregivers as a result of their gender, disability and displacement status, and then worked collaboratively with participants to collectively design
possible solutions. The recommendations were shared with partners working on the ground to develop pilot initiatives aimed at improving access and inclusion in existing GBV programs. In Ethiopia, for example, female caregivers of girls with severe disabilities hosted traditional "coffee discussions" in their own homes, sharing information about GBV with other women and building a protective peer network with neighbors in the community.

The final step in the project was a participatory evaluation in which women and girls with disabilities that were ultimately involved in the project documented and shared their own “Stories of Change” with stakeholders. This placed women and girls with disabilities at the center of defining what changes were most important in the project, and fostered wider community collaboration on the next steps. For example, in Northern Caucasus, adolescent girls with and without disabilities prepared a presentation on what they identified as most important in the project and the activities they want to do next. They presented their priorities at a planning workshop with stakeholders: “These are our ideas that we would like to see in the future… We would like to meet with some girls at a café or a place for just girls with and without disabilities – just girls, without adults … We would like sign language lessons. These girls can teach us. We already know a bit, because my sister has a hearing disability. These two photographs are my classmates. We would like them to join us and participate in these activities. We will need some paper and markers … a space to meet … transportation.” (Click here to access the full report and related tools.) Photo: Posters and presentations by the Girls' Group - "Our Story" and "Our Ideas" (c) IRC
The Changing Faces of Agents of Change

We’ve come across 3 exciting forums that highlight leaders and advocates from the development and disability communities around the world; truly illustrating “nothing about us without us!” If you have more examples of this, please let us know!

- A new photo exhibit at the World Bank, “Brilliant and Resilient: Celebrating the Power of Women Activists with Disabilities” will launch on Wednesday, September 21 with a panel discussion on how women with disabilities across the globe are working as change agents to empower women and girls with disabilities in their communities. This unique exhibition features a collection of photographs and personal stories of women with different types of disabilities, all alumni of Mobility International USA’s Women’s Institute on Leadership and Disability (WILD). Their powerful portraits and vignettes illustrate the issues that significantly impact their lives, including access to education, employment, political power, reproductive health services, and HIV/AIDS
and violence prevention. The launch event will be held at the World Bank on Wednesday, September 21, 5-7pm. RSVP [here](#).

- In a new Ted Talk, "**Why It is Time to Make Inclusive Development Inclusive**," Charlotte McClain Nhlapo, the World Bank’s Global Disability Advisor, explains how we can strengthen disability inclusive development, and make it truly inclusive. Society often sees people with disabilities as victims, dependent, and weak. But Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo, the global disability advisor at the World Bank, doesn't see herself that way. She sees herself as a warrior and a change agent.

- A recent article in the Guardian, "**Record number of Paralympics TV staff are disabled, say C4**" discusses advances in showing people with disabilities on screen as athletes, as TV correspondents, as presenters and as producers. The article notes that 58% of Channel 4’s Paralympic Games presenters have disabilities and 20 disabled staff are on the production team. One star notes, “It's important to show people with disabilities on screen… This isn't just a celebration of disability. This is what we can do when we are limited [by] things that do confine us, do sometimes control and dictate who we are. This is showing us overcoming that and using all the abilities we have.” Amplifying and integrating people with disabilities as agents of change is key to advancing perceptions of marginalized people and to inclusive design.


**Got Inclusion?**

We want to hear from you! Please share your inclusion activities, success stories, upcoming events, and intriguing resources. Send to [TAAP@worldlearning.org](mailto:TAAP@worldlearning.org).

New to TAAP? Read past newsletters and learn more by clicking [here](#).