

IDB Disability and Development

Mapping 25 Years of Technical Assistance

An internal review and monitoring exercise carried out in 2005 by the SDS Disability and Development Team has proved a worthy opportunity to make status of disability work in the Bank. By answering the question: 'What has the IDB done in disability and development work?' the purpose of the exercise was to build an inventory of past and present projects, and subsequently analyze the collected pool of experiences gathered in the Bank. This note briefly introduces 25 years of technical assistance.

In collecting information towards building the inventory a couple of issues had to be considered: 1) What are the exact criteria of a disability project; and 2) How to collect the information?

The project identification process was based in a social understanding of disability, which emphasizes aspects of access and inclusion. Disability is understood as a cross-cutting issue much like gender and race, and projects were identified from a broad range of sectors, including education and labor market participation, urban development and transportation, and capacity building and institutional strengthening of local disabled people's organizations.

Projects on prevention against violence, accidents, HIV/AIDS and other disabling diseases were excluded, as were projects relating to general health issues.

While this may exclude some projects relevant to the inventory, it also prevents counting projects which naturally fall into other categories.

The team made a decision to include only those projects, which specifically address disability in the project document. This enabled the team to search in and collect data from the Bank's two main operation tools. The first tool is available to the public through the Bank's main website in the Project Gateway. The Gateway includes projects from 1995 and onwards. The second tool is the Bank's internal project management system, which holds a complete list of projects supported by the Bank since 1959. Neither of the tools have a marker for disability like they do for poverty and gender. Instead, the team searched for terms such as 'disability', 'inclusion', 'access', 'special needs', etc. in the search function to identify relevant disability projects. Finally, the team also consulted with various Bank staff to learn of their experience in disability work.

Due to the fixed project identification criteria and the approach chosen to collect information for the inventory, it is likely that some disability projects may have been missed.

"A picture emerges of an experience in disability and development work much richer than first anticipated, and it shows a strong commitment to disability work from both the region and from Bank staff."

Making status of the Bank's work in disability in the last 25 years shows an incredible commitment to disability work from the region and from individual staff members. While there is little evidence of a systematic act of mainstreaming disability into Bank operations, a picture emerges of an experience in disability and development work much richer than first anticipated. This note will briefly resume the Bank's historic and current achievements in disability and development, and describe a few on-going projects.

A full list of projects can be found on the SDS website on disability in the Project Portfolio.

The Story So Far

From 1981 to 2005, the Bank approved US\$8.5 million in technical assistance on disability to the region.

The year 1981 marked the beginning of technical assistance on disability in the IDB. The Bank approved the first technical cooperation (TC) on disability to Brazil, which provided non-reimbursable support to Fundacao Socias Pionerias. Through the project 'Improve Health Services to Physically Disabled Persons' the local organization received US \$1,350,000 to build skills and capacity in caring for PWD in the poorest part of the country, the Northeast.

The TC was funded by the Bank's Fund for Special Operations. The FSO remains the single biggest donor of technical assistance to disability projects and has contributed with US\$3,7 million, or app. 1/3 of all grants.

Fig. 1 shows the value of disability TCs approved by year and sector. Spanning 25 years of support, there are significant gaps in funding to disability projects. Yet, it is noticeable that the Bank's commitment to supporting PWD has grown steadily over the years - in fact with the general introduction of disability into the global development agenda.

Historically, the Bank has moved in three waves of technical assistance on disability. Similar to the first TC approved to Brazil, the Bank began by strengthening local organizations providing health and rehabilitation services to PWD. This included projects of training and capacity building as well as improving or expanding accessible facilities.

The *second* wave focused strongly on including PWD in the labor market. From 1997 to 2000 the Bank approved over US\$2,400,000 to this end, most notably to a regional project on labor market insertion for the blind population in three Southern Cone countries. The project focused on skills training to improve their employment opportunities.

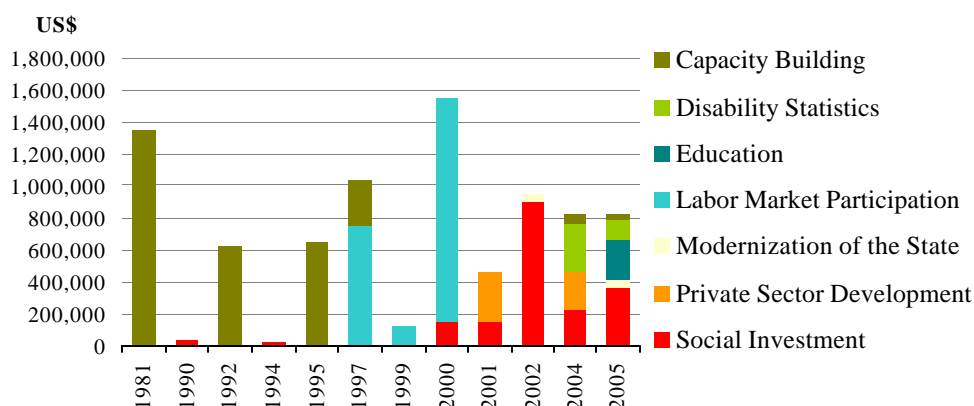
inclusion of the population with disability in the social and productive community life. Other projects lent support to local industries meeting demand for assistive technology.

Growing demand for data lead to the on-going IDB Initiative on Disability Statistics. In 2004 and 2005 the Bank granted US \$435,000 in technical assistance to improve disability data in the region.

In 2005, the Bank granted over US\$800,000 in technical assistance to disability. The education sector emerged strongly and made up over 30% of the value of all TCs approved in 2005. With new data available for the region, coming years will see a continued rise in inclusive education and labor market insertion projects.

Fig. 1: TCs on disability by Sector, 1981-2005

Total: US\$8,558,323



A *third* wave began in 2000 with a series of social investments diagnosing disability prevalence, researching living conditions, and assessing local capacities for sustainable

Capacity building is another area that will re-emerge as a focus of activity in the coming process of disseminating data and improving advocacy skills in local communities.

Status 2005: Projects under Implementation

In 2005, the IDB's portfolio of on-going technical cooperations on disability amounted to over US\$4 million.

The IDB understands disability as exclusion of persons with impairment through barriers in the physical and social environment - and not as a health condition attributable to the individual. This understanding is reflected in the Bank's portfolio of projects on disability.

As shown in figure 2 the IDB supports disability projects in a broad range of sectors to eliminate barriers faced by PWD and to create inclusive environments.

A total of 26 projects were under implementation in 2005. The projects fall into 7 sector categories of which support for labor market participation and social investment made up over half the value of all active TCs in 2005. The SDS Initiative on Disability Statistics accounted for 10% of the value of all on-going TCs. The three main sources of financial support came from the IDB Fund for Special Operations, the Social Inclusion Fund, and the Multilateral Investment Fund.

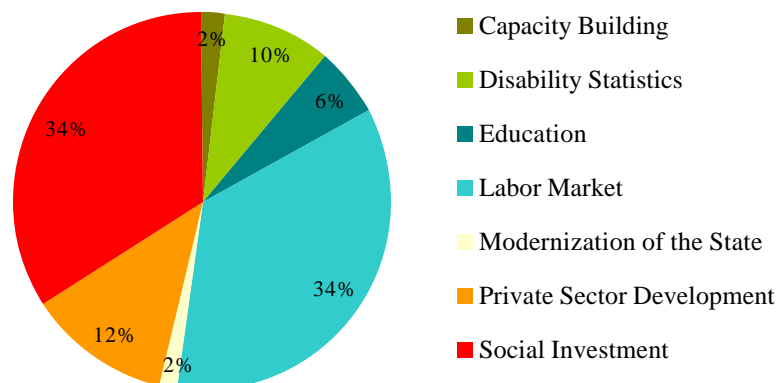
Disability Statistics

The IDB is leading an initiative much in demand by the international development community to collect and improve disability statistics in LAC region.

From 2003 to 2005 the Bank held sub-regional meetings collecting disability statistics and supporting the harmonization process of the disability definition. Meetings were organized in close cooperation with national statistical institutes and local NGOs.

Fig. 2: Active TCs on Disability by Sector, 2005

Total: US\$4,390,263



The meetings were supported by the UN Washington City Group on Disability Statistics and attended by World Bank, CEPAL, CARICOM, and the Andean Community. Country reports and presentations on disability statistics for 23 countries in LAC region are available at www.iadb.org/sds/disability.

Other activities on disability statistics include the Bank's MECOVI program, which are leading efforts to improve household data in the region. From 2003 to 2005 MECOVI supported disability surveys

in Nicaragua, Ecuador and Guatemala.

The complete project portfolio of technical cooperations - on-going as well as completed projects - is available online. A short introduction to some of the technical cooperations under implementation are briefly described on the next couple of pages.

Pilot Project for Supporting Disabled Women's Labor Insertion (US\$150,000)

Nicaragua: NI-T1024

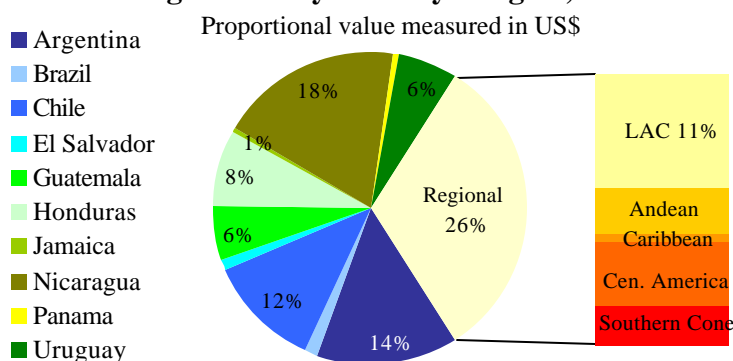
Team Leader: Carlos Olivares (CarlosO@iadb.org)

The project facilitates the labor market insertion of 200 women with disability. In a series of pilot activities the women receives technical skills training to build their competitiveness in working with small businesses. The project includes four components: A study to assess the demand for technical skills in the labor market; design of a capacity building training

Beneficiary Countries - Now and Then

In 2005, 10 countries received direct technical assistance on disability, while regional projects covered all 26 member countries. Fig. 3 shows the country and regional distribution of all active TCs in 2005 as measured in relative value. Nicaragua has recently emerged as the single largest recipient country of technical assistance on disability following the successful implementation of a national disability survey in 2003. Data collected in ENDIS spurred demand for well-targeted operational interventions.

Fig. 3: TCs by Country / Region, 2005

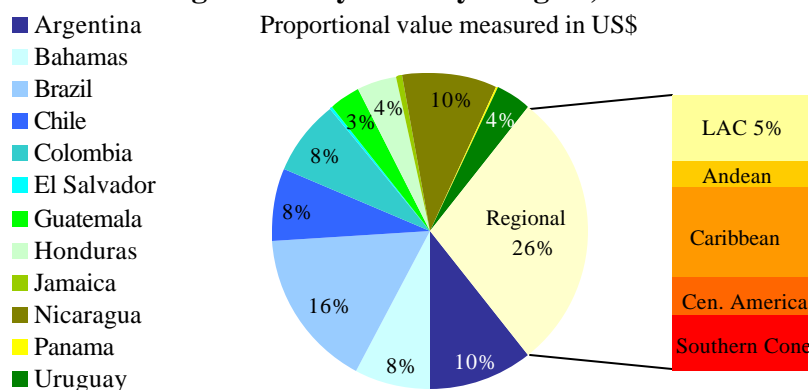


statistics is given as regional support. Other projects of regional assistance include community-based training, empowerment of youth with disability, and various studies and seminars on disability and development.

In a broader regional perspective, countries in Central America and in the Southern Cone received most of the assistance granted in 2005; accounting for 41% and 38%, respectively. While countries in the Andean region received support to improve disability data through regional assistance, it is notable that no single Andean country was receiving technical assistance on disability in 2005.

In a historic perspective there are both differences and similarities with the country distribution in 2005. The biggest difference is that in the past 25 years Brazil has been the single biggest receiver of technical assistance to disability; while in 2005 Brazil accounted for 1% of the total value of all on-going TCs. Other countries in the Southern Cone, such as Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay represent more or less the same share of disability TCs today as well as previously. Regional support remains stable as well, although the Caribbean used to receive a larger share.

Fig. 4: TCs by Country / Region, 1981-2005



program; technical skills training of 200 women with disability; placement of the women in the labor market. The project was recently been approved, and will soon be implemented.

National Secretariat for the Social Inclusion of People with Disabilities (US\$19,500)

Panama: PN-T1013

Team Leader: Isabel Nieves (IsabelN@iadb.org)

By analyzing the application of public policies towards social inclusion of persons with disability in Chile and Mexico, the project assesses their potential replication in Panama. In addition, Mexico will be consulted specifically on their successful development of inclusive policies in the education sector, and Chile will be consulted on their successful implementation of a national disability survey.

Intergenerational Enterprises for Production of Assistive Technology (US \$235,000)

Bolivia, Honduras, Panamá, Perú: RS-T1027

Team Leader: Tomas Engler (TomasE@iadb.org)

The project is intended to stimulate and facilitate the creation and expansion of small and medium intergenerational enterprises producing and distributing more affordable assistive technology products (e.g., walkers, wheelchairs, support rails and bars, adaptive eating utensils, etc.)

for the elderly and disabled, by promoting and supporting: (a) market studies to evaluate the feasibility of enterprises producing locally designed assistive technology products, and employing elderly, disabled and young workers; and (b) proposals and business plans for financing the creation or expansion of the ventures described.

Enhancement NGO Resource Center / Access (US \$30,000)

Jamaica: JA-T1011

Team Leader: Allen Everett (EverettA@iadb.org)

The Council of Voluntary Social Services is the largest umbrella NGO organization in Jamaica. CVSS functions as a knowledge center and provides training to NGOs. In expanding their services to disabled peoples organizations (DPO), the IDB supports the facilitation of access both to the built environment and to the use of resources for physically, visually, and hearing impaired.

Labor Market Insertion Program for the Blind Population in Argentina, Brazil and Chile (US\$500,700)

Southern Cone: TC0005003

Team Leader: Maria Teresa Traverso (MariaT@iadb.org)

The project assists the blind population in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay to find jobs and to improve their employability and productivity by offering them training and by strength-

ening the participating organizations. The three year program is designed with technical support from Foundation for Latin America of the National Organization of Blind Spaniards (FOAL) and has three components: (i) institutional strengthening; (ii) training courses and job placement; and (iii) a communications and dissemination strategy. The third component helps raise public awareness that visual impairment is not a limitation for participating in the labor market.

Alleviation of Poverty and Exclusion among Disabled Populations (UD\$300,00)

Nicaragua: TC0112011

Team Leader: Marisil Naborre (MarisilN@iadb.org)

The project promotes the development of a national policy and strategy in support of persons with disability. The main component offered financial support to implement the first national disability survey in Nicaragua (ENDIS) in 2003. The work was jointly carried out by the national statistical institute, MINSA and MECOVI (IDB). Following components focus on disseminating the results, and building a community of stakeholders in the field. In addition, the project supports the development of operational plans for future intervention in addressing the areas with the highest prevalence rates with special attention given to areas of extreme poverty.

Country Reports on Disability Statistics

- Georgina Pizzolitto, 2006: *Report on Persons with Disability in Honduras*. IDB Report.
- Georgina Pizzolitto, 2006: *Report on Persons with Disability in Nicaragua*. IDB Report.
- Liliana Pantano, Alejandra Cuasnicú and Gladys Massé, 2005: *Informe acerca de antecedentes de datos sobre discapacidad en Argentina*. Developed by INDEC for the IDB.
- Cristina Rouco, Cecilia Rodríguez Gauna, Silvia Rudich, Gladys Massé, 2005: *Informe acerca de la demanda de datos sobre discapacidad en Argentina*. Developed by the national statistical institute for the IDB.
- Víctor Mezza Rosso, 2004: *Características Sociodemográficas de la población con discapacidad*. Developed by the national statistical institute for the IDB.
- Blanca Franco Martínez, 2004: *Demanda y uso de datos de discapacidad en Bolivia*. Developed by the national statistical institute for the IDB.
- Anne Giselle Santana Carvalho, 2004: *Pesquisa referente ao uso do banco de dados sobre pessoas portadoras de deficiência*. Developed by IBGE for the IDB.
- Ninoska Damianoviæ, 2004: *Estadísticas de Discapacidad en Chile*. Developed by the national statistical institute for the IDB.
- Carmen Frutos de Almada, 2002: *Discapacidad en el Paraguay*. Developed by DGEEC for the IDB.
- Lidia Melendres Goycochea, 2003: *Banco de Datos de Discapacidad (Uruguay)*. Developed by the national statistical institute for the IDB.
- Carlos Educado Calvo, 2003: *Demanda y Uso de Banco de Datos sobre Discapacidad*. Developed by the national statistical institute for the IDB.

Initial Education for Children with Special Needs (US\$100,000)

Nicaragua: NI-T1028

Team Leader: Emma Naslund-Hadley
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The project provides early attention to children aged 0-6 years with special education needs. By sensitizing parent and teachers to better integrate the children into mainstream schools, the project is designed as an instrument to facilitate: i) the early detection and attention to children with special education needs, ii) the integration and participation of the children in early education, iii) improvements in the quality of pedagogical services, and iv) the active participation of parents in their children's education. The project is developed as a module to the Bank's new PAININ program (NI-L1009).

Disability Challenges in the Chilean Legislation and Policy (US\$20,000)

Chile: CH-T1009

Team Leader: Carmen Albertos
(CarmenAL@iadb.org)

In support of developing the Country Strategy for Chile following the general elections in the first quarter of 2006, the project provides comparative legislative analysis in consolidating the status of disability rights. The analysis will highlight the challenges in the current legislation and provide alternatives to be discussed in the context of a dialogue between IDB and the new Government.

Improving Disability Data in the Andean Region and the Caribbean (US\$25,000)

Andean and Caribbean countries: RG-T1123

Team Leader: Ernest Massiah (ErnestM)

The main objective of this project is to expand the coverage of the SDS Initiative on Disability Statistics to collect, analyze and improve the quality of disability data in all of LAC. The project will support sub-regional meetings for heads of national statistical institutes in the Andean region and the Caribbean; development of country reports for countries with good data sources; and development of a website on the work of the Disability and Development Team.

Publications

- Eduardo Alvarez, Verônica Camisão, edited by José Brakarz, Tomás Engler, 2005: *Operational Guidelines on Accessibility in Urban Development Projects*. SDS Working Paper.
- Pamela Dudzik, Ann Elwan, and Robert Metts, 2001: *Disability Policies, Statistics, and Strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Review*. SDS Working Paper.
- Andrés Montes and Ernest Massiah, 2001: *Disability Data: Survey and Methods Issues in Latin America and the Caribbean*. SDS Working Paper.
- Gordon L. Porter, 2001: *Disability and Education: Toward an Inclusive Approach*. SDS Working Paper.
- Gonzalo Hernández-Licona, 2001: *Disability and the Labor Market: Data Gaps and Needs in Latin America and the Caribbean*. SDS Working Paper.
- Eduardo Alvarez, 2001: *Pathways to Accessibility: Disability and the Physical Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean*. SDS Working Paper.

Video

- *Construyendo con Todos: Discapacidad y Desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe*. The video was produced for the IDB by Fundacion Teleton Chile. See it online under Events.

Conferences

- *Advancing the Disability Agenda in the IDB*. Washington, DC. April 20, 2006. SDS Learning Event.
- *Disability and Poverty Reduction*. Washington, DC. November 11-12th, 2004. Organized by the Japan Program.
- *Dialogue on Development and Inclusion - Opportunities for Persons with Disability*. Seminar during the IDB Annual Meeting in 2000, Santiago, Chile.

Seminars on Disability Statistics

- *Disability Data in the Andean Region*. Lima, Peru. June 7-8, 2005.
- *Regional Harmonization of the Disability Definition*. Buenos Aires, Argentina. May 10-11, 2005.
- *Disability Data in the Caribbean*. Kingston, Jamaica. April 14-15, 2005.
- *Second Meeting on Disability Statistics in the Southern Cone*. Santiago, Chile. October 28-29, 2004.
- *Statistics on Persons with Disabilities in Central America*. Managua, Nicaragua. August 30 - September 1, 2004.
- *Disability Statistics in the Southern Cone*. Buenos Aires, Argentina. July 7-8, 2003.

Further Information

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For general information about publications, projects and disability data, please visit our website.

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