MAKING SURE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE NOT LEFT BEHIND

Persons with disabilities make up 15 per cent of the world’s population, with most living in developing countries. Poverty rates are higher for persons with disabilities and they face many social and environmental barriers to access decent work.

Social protection programmes can play a vital role in ensuring that persons with disabilities have income security, effective access to health care, and that their disability-related needs are met. Support for disability-related needs often is based around income support, health and rehabilitation services, and integration into the labour market. These programmes can provide the foundation for many persons with disabilities to enter or stay in the workforce. They can also contribute to reducing and preventing poverty for persons with disabilities and their families. However, only 28 per cent of persons with severe disabilities worldwide receive a disability benefit.

Social protection systems often face the challenge of being inclusive of persons with disabilities because of policy, environmental, and social barriers. In addition, programmes designed for persons with disabilities are often limited in the needs that they address and are sometimes linked with the assumption that persons with disabilities cannot work.

To ensure that there is a meaningful social protection floor for all, persons with disabilities need to have effective access to mainstream social protection schemes, as well as to those that meet any other needs or extra costs that arise from their disabilities. The ILO is working to make sure that social protection systems are inclusive and that they support positive engagement for persons with disabilities in society and work.

ENSURING THEIR RIGHTS AND PROMOTING SOCIAL INCLUSION

Persons with disabilities have the right to social protection. This right is explicitly guaranteed by human rights instruments, including the 2006 UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Social protection floors, as described in the ILO’s Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 (No. 202), contribute to realizing this right by guaranteeing at least a minimum level of social protection to all, based on the principles of non-discrimination and responsiveness to special needs.

The ILO is working with a range of partners internationally to support the implementation of these frameworks in ways that are inclusive for persons with disabilities, and to support countries in ensuring that their social protection systems are responsive to the situations of persons with disabilities and promote inclusion.

Work on social protection systems complements the ILO’s efforts to ensure equal opportunity and treatment of persons with disabilities in the world of work.
ENSURING THAT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES HAVE A VOICE IN THE FORMULATION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES

The participation of persons with disabilities in the national dialogue on social protection in the Philippines is very important because they can share their experience and explain the various barriers they face every day. Representing persons with disabilities is quite challenging as their needs are as diverse as their impairments, their geographic location, etc.

That requires a significant experience in talking and working with persons with disabilities with different walks of life. It is also challenging because this knowledge sharing will affect what the social protection floor will look like.

We also have to ensure access for persons with disabilities to the programmes and services that are part of the social protection floor, making sure that support services are in place, where necessary.

- Abner Manlapaz, President of Life Haven, Inc. Council Member, National Anti-Poverty Commission

FROM RIGHT TO REALITY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

The ILO and its UN partners have long-term experience in supporting countries to ensure access to social protection for persons with disabilities.

You can support us to:

- Gather evidence and strengthen knowledge on barriers to inclusion and needs of persons with disabilities to guide policy making as well as establish monitoring and evaluation processes.
  US$ 100,000
- Support governments and national stakeholders to develop national social protection strategies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities.
  US$ 100,000
- Provide technical advice to governments and other stakeholders on the design and implementation of inclusive social protection systems and enhanced disability benefit programmes.
  US$ 350,000
- Develop the capacities of governments and stakeholders through training programmes.
  US$ 50,000
- Document, analyse and share the country experiences and lessons learned.
  US$ 50,000

LISTENING TO YOUR AMBITIONS

As a donor, you receive regular reports on the progress made and have access to ongoing project activities and performance indicators.

To further discuss your objectives and the ways in which you can improve millions of lives, you can contact:

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