



## Disability and World Bank Safeguards Campaign

### Why does the World Bank need to address disability in its Safeguard Policies?

The World Bank's Environmental and Social Safeguard Policies are designed to lessen social and environmental risks associated with World Bank investments. However, as they stand now, the rights of people with disabilities have not been addressed in these policies. People with disabilities, often some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in countries where the World Bank has its projects, are not systematically consulted or considered in the planning and design of projects. The lack of a development policy that addresses the specific needs and vulnerabilities of people with disabilities may have resulted in harm. The World Bank must mandate systematic inclusion of disability into World Bank operations, ensuring that all relevant Bank-funded projects are inclusive in design and implementation, and ensuring strong, clear policy language on disability in the safeguards.

### What is the overarching goal of the consultation process for disability rights advocates?

The overarching goal of the World Bank Safeguard Policies consultation process is:

- To ensure that the World Bank understands the link between disability and development;
- Recognizes the vulnerability of people with disabilities in developing countries;
- Includes people with disabilities and disability advocates throughout the accessible consultation process;
- Understands the harm done when people with disabilities are left out of development projects and programs;
- Understands the need to systematically incorporate disability into the safeguards so that there is binding policy language on disability;
- Acknowledges the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a model for policy language.

### What does the international disability rights community want to see from the World Bank in the safeguards?

Key Asks:

- Ensure systematic, cross-cutting integration of disability throughout all safeguard policies;

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) must be a model for World Bank safeguard language on disability;
- Include persons with disabilities in the safeguard review consultation process and include and consider people with disabilities when designing and implementing Bank projects;
- Disability must be included as a key indicator in any environmental and social impact assessment, both of which should be mandatory for all projects;
- World Bank must adopt binding disability rights standards to monitor borrowing countries' compliance;
- World Bank must monitor implementation of the safeguards to ensure compliance on disability;
- The Bank must proactively involve persons with disabilities in all project consultations and throughout all stages of the project cycle.

#### Accompanying Measures:

- Promote further awareness among the World Bank staffers on the need for systematic consideration of development standards that include persons with disabilities;
- World Bank must expand its interest in disability beyond issues of social protection and Social Security;
- World Bank Task Team Leaders must set up clear internal standards for monitoring safeguard-affected projects to ensure the essential and systematic integration of disability;
- To enhance the technical capacity of World Bank Task Team Leaders and systematically streamline disability in World Bank operations, disability must be addressed as one of the major technical subjects to be included in all training programs for Human Resource development within the Bank. There must also continue to be a Disability Unit within the Bank to provide technical assistance and monitor disability.
- The Bank must adopt clear and explicit language on disability rights in all existing social-related safeguards such as in the Involuntary Resettlement as well as in potentially new safeguards such as Labor which is possibly going to be incorporated into the revised safeguards.
- The Bank should explicitly include persons with disabilities in all safeguard-related instruments that it produces when relevant safeguards are triggered for a project such as the Indigenous Peoples Plan and Resettlement Action Plan.
- To enhance the capacity of governments to uphold the rights of persons with disabilities, the World Bank must provide technical assistance to governments on disability mainstreaming and inclusion.

#### Other Processes:

- To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of inclusive safeguards, the Bank must have disaggregated data on disability for all program and projects that might have direct or indirect effect on persons with disabilities.
- To address issues of accessibility and inclusion across sectors within governments, the World Bank must commission additional studies that address questions of how inclusive development impacts mainstream society.

- Any and all public procurement policies must systematically take in to account accessibility and inclusion standards so that persons with disabilities and marginalized groups can benefit from all project and program outcomes.