

Dear Partners,

The September 2017 Newsletter of the Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities (GPCwd) has arrived! In this edition we would like to draw your attention to some major developments as well as upcoming events in 2017.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Updates from the GPCwd Task Forces

ECD Task Force

IECD Report led by Emily Vargas-Barón and RISE Institute

The RISE Institute, the Early Childhood Development Task Force for Children with Disabilities, and UNICEF have conducted a global survey on inclusive Early Childhood Development and Early Childhood Intervention Services. The analysis and interpretation of the extensive data set obtained through the survey is progressing well. The Final Report will be issued in December 2017. The mapping will be officially launched at the Second International Developmental Pediatrics Association Congress to be held in Mumbai, India from 7 to 10 December 2017.

ECD meetings and conferences

The ECD Task Force members have participated in many meetings and conferences to promote the rights of children with disabilities. Among those conferences are:

- International Conference on Early Childhood Development: Promoting Nurturing Care for Children 0-3, Beijing, April 2017
- International Conference on Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Bhutan, April 2017
- Session on "Consensus Building for SDG Success," Washington, DC, April 2017

[More information on these meetings](#)

Global conference on Children on the Move

ECDtf and Autism Speaks also participated in the [Global Conference on Children on the Move](#) that took place in Berlin in June.



Meeting of IECD TF Berlin

At the conference, the Task Force advocated to ensure children-on-the-move, especially those with disabilities, are supported, protected, and educated with full upholding of their rights as articulated in both the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). As the Chair of the Task Force highlights, "All policies, programs, and practices should reflect the SDG commitment that "no one be left behind" and that the particular needs and rights of children with disabilities will be addressed with inclusive, accessible, and effective health, education, ECD, and protection. Among children-on-the-move, those with disabilities, as well as those who will be disabled by the diverse threats and risks in their journeys, comprise a most vulnerable group of children, a priority population to whom our commitment cannot falter or attenuate. The scientific, economic, and political cases support an inclusive early childhood development framework for achieving these goals."

The Task Force also has plans for meetings in conjunction with the International [Step by Step Association Conference](#) in October in Ghent, Belgium as well as [the International Developmental Pediatrics Congress](#) in December in Mumbai, India. Please let donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu know if you are attending these conferences so that you can be included in ECDtf activities.

Please see recent ECDtf newsletters on the GPCwd website: [LINK](#).

To get involved, contact ECDtf coordinator: donald.wertlieb@tufts.edu

[Child Protection Task Force](#)

Side event on violence against children with disabilities

The GPCwd Task Force on Child Protection, the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, Lumos and UNICEF organised a side event at the CRPD Conference of States Parties on the topic of ending violence against children and adolescents with disabilities. Co-sponsored by the Permanent Representations of Mexico and Sri Lanka, the event aimed to:

- Identify avenues to step up country efforts to end violence against children and adolescents with disabilities;
- Share good practices of combating violence against children and adolescents with disabilities at country level and identify areas for improvement;
- Propose concrete actions for countries to take to end violence against children and adolescents with disabilities.

Speakers included the H.E. Sabarullah Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico; H.E. Sabarullah Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka; Mihaela Ivanova, a self-advocate working for Lumos in Bulgaria; Susan Bissell of the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children; Kathryn Leslie, Child Protection Specialist in the Office of the Special Representative to UN Secretary General on Violence against Children; and Lisbet Brizuela, Director of Disability Rights International Mexico.

H.E. Juan Sandoval spoke about Mexico's efforts around the UN resolution on bullying and the additional challenges that cyberbullying has brought about for the safety of children. He emphasized the need for all efforts to tackle bullying of children to be disability sensitive and the importance to involve children in the policy making process.

Sri Lanka is establishing a unit to coordinate disability affairs within the President's office, drafting laws in line with the CRPD and aiming to become fully disability inclusive in time, shared H.E. Sabarullah Khan.

Mihaela Ivanova spoke about the challenges that children with disabilities face to protect themselves and their rights, especially when not given adequate support. In her speech, she proposed that to end violence there is a need "to include children and young people, wherever they are, to actively participate in decisions on how to end violence against them and their peers".

Susan Bissell presented the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and its work, which has as its goals to create political will, accelerate action and promote collaboration to end violence against children. The Partnership is using the INSPIRE package of intervention strategies, that was created by the WHO, to support governments in their efforts to end violence. To date 13 countries have signed up as pathfinder countries and they are speaking with another 10 countries who have an interest in joining the partnership.

The importance of well trained staff who can support children with disabilities who have experienced violence in seeking justice was pointed out by Kathryn Leslie, Child Protection Specialist in the Office of the SRSG on Violence against Children. She also pointed to the need for better data on violence experienced by children with disabilities, particularly 'invisible' violence.

Finally, Lisbet Brizuela, Director Disability Rights International Mexico spoke about the violence experienced by children living in institutions and the importance to reintegrate children into their communities in order to end the violence. The event was chaired by Joost Kooijmans, Senior Child Protection Specialist at UNICEF.



From left to right: Mihaela Ivanova with her mom, Susan Bissell and Joost Kooijmans

News from the Lumos secretariat

After six years with the organisation, Nolan Quigley has moved on from Lumos, thereby also stepping down as chair of the Child Protection Task Force. Lumos continues to host the secretariat of the Task Force. For more information, please contact: Anna Darling at Anna.Darling@wearelumos.org (Anna will be facilitating the correspondence with the group while Merel is away).

Physical Activity and Sport Task Force

Inclusive sport at the Conference of States Parties

The Chair of Physical Activity and Sport Task Force, Catherine Carty, as well as core group member, Eli Wolff, participated in the 10th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP-CRPD). Catherine spoke at the side event, "Changing Perceptions, Challenging lives through inclusive sport." The speakers at this event included Permanent Representatives to the UN of Andorra, Monaco and San Marino. Albert Llovera, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador from Andorra spoke on the importance of inclusive sport.

The Chair of the Task Force called for the implementation of Article 30 of CRPD, on participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure, and sport and clarified the areas where the sport sector can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs/Agenda 2030. Catherine also highlighted that the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPSVI), that took place in Russia in June 2017, is an opportunity to mainstream inclusive sports policy into national development plans.

Research on inclusive sport

In 2016, the Task Force and UNESCO, in collaboration with Commit to Inclusion International and Marty Block in University of Virginia, prepared postgraduate a masters scholarship proposal for research on inclusive sport agenda. In June 2017, Dr Niamh Reilly (Mourton) took the role of principal investigator for this research and Gabriel Mayr became a research assistant. Dr. Reilly and Gabriel will work on advancing the research agenda.

WHO Global Action Plan for Physical Activity

In response to the WHO call for comments, the Task Force submitted their inputs to the WHO Draft Global Action Plan for Physical Activity (GAPPA). The over-arching goal of the strategy is to get one hundred million people more active by 2030.

The task force provided feedback to recommend that children and adults with disabilities are included and visible in the GAPPA. The members made reference to the importance of a system-wise approach with specific focus on: the disaggregation of data by disability; provision of assistive devices; training of teachers; provision of vocational programmes; battling stigma and discrimination through sports; as well as ensuring meaningful participation of persons with disabilities.

For more information about this Task Force, please contact Catherine Carty, Chair, GPc wd Physical Activity and Sport Taskforce: Catherine.Carty@staff.ittralee.ie



Wednesday, 14 June 2017
6.15 PM – 7.30 PM
Conference Room 7

Albert Llovera, Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF Andorra and driver in the Dakar Rally at the side event on inclusive sport

Leadership and Mentoring Task Force

Report on leadership and mentoring

The Leadership and Mentoring Task Force is working on the report that will combine the findings from two surveys: 1) mapping of organizations that provide leadership and mentoring opportunities for youth with disabilities; 2) youth needs assessment on leadership and mentoring.

The Task Force is planning to launch the report on International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3 December 2017.

For more information about the task force, please contact Genelle Thomas: gthomas@pyd.org

NEW MEMBERS OF THE GPcwd

The [Children's Hearing Institute](#), located in New York, USA has recently joined the GPcwd. Founded in 1983 by Dr. Simon Parisier and his wife Elaine, the Children's Hearing Institute has dedicated itself to helping children with hearing loss and their families. For the past three decades, The Institute has pioneered research, education, and therapeutic efforts that have immeasurably improved the lives of children who are deaf.

NEWS FROM THE GPCWD MEMBERS

News from META: Enabled International Convening for advocates on the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities, Costa Rica, 18-21 July.

Five of META participants from Argentina, Costa Rica and United States participated in the Women Enabled International Convening for advocates on the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities that took place in Costa Rica in July.

The convening welcomed women from all over Latin America who represented various disability groups, races and indigenous groups. The first day, learning goals were set for the week and the [Women Enable International \(WEI\) accountability Toolkit](#) was introduced as a tool to use UN human rights mechanisms in order to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities.

The second day of the WEI Convening used a sexual and reproductive health and rights case study to guide participants in developing their own proposed advocacy strategies.

An interactive session was achieved the third day with a shadow report writing exercise in which participants divided into groups based on their countries - Argentina, Peru, Dominican Republic, United States, Costa Rica and Mexico. The groups outlined written submissions to a UN human rights body around a hypothetical gender-based violence issue.


For more information, please contact Agustina Fazio: maagustina.fazio@gmail.com



Enabled International Convening for advocates on the Rights of Women and Girls with Disabilities

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Designer to develop accessible knowledge sharing platform, GLAD

The Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Secretariat seeks a consultant or firm with relevant expertise to design and construct an online knowledge sharing platform to support the goals of the GLAD Network and its geographically dispersed members. The website will comply with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 (WCAG), AAA level. **To apply:**  [download the full Terms of Reference](#). **Deadline for applications:** 6 October 2017

Deputy Project Manager Ninewa, IRAQ - Handicap International

Under the direct responsibility and support of the Victim Assistance Project Manager, and in close collaboration with the Technical Unit and the operational staff (database officer, referral focal points), the Deputy Project Manager will be responsible for: coordinating the development and implementation of HI's victim assistance activities in Ninewa governorate; supervising the project officers in the implementation and monitoring of projects; ensuring external representation in relevant sector meetings and working groups, and replacing the Project Manager when needed in his/her representation duty; ensuring reporting on the project progress with quantitative and qualitative data. http://www.handicap-international.us/current_vacancies
Deadline for applications: 6 October 2017

NEW RESOURCES

Call for participation: Rate the accessibility of places in your own community for the 2018 UN Flagship Report on disability and development

Accessibility apps crowdsource and share information about accessibility in public places and are thus useful tools to assist persons with disabilities and in providing an overview of accessibility. The UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development 2018 - *Realizing the SDGs by, for and with persons with disabilities*, which will be released in 2018, will explore the information available in these apps to provide guidance on accessibility policy making.

You can participate in this effort by rating the public places in your own community at: <http://www.axsmap.com/>, <https://wheelmap.org> and <https://www.jaccede.com>. These apps were developed by nonprofit organizations and the last two apps are available in languages other than English.

Article in Huffington Post by Physical Activity and Sport core group member, Eli A. Wolff, and Dr. Mary Hums "Nothing About Us Without Us" - Mantra for a Movement

Traveling through an airport and being left on a plane because no one informs the airport mobility accessibility attendants that an arriving passenger needs assistance. Relocating accessible parking spaces without consulting anyone with a disability working in the closest building. Construction workers leaving equipment in hallways and elevators, blocking a student with a disability using a mobility device from passing through, and navigating the building to get to class.

These are typical everyday issues persons with a disability encounter that persons without a disability may never even think about. Over the course of time and life, these occurrences add up, resulting in people with disabilities feeling disrespected, disenfranchised and - ultimately - powerless.

But it does not have to be this way...

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/nothing-about-us-without-us-mantra-for-a-movement_us_59aea450e4b0c50640cd61c

[Bridging the Gap Guide](#) - promoting transport for children with disabilities to school in developing countries

An international team has brought together research, case studies and interviews with heads of schools in the Americas, Africa, and Asia in order to create a stronger case for the provision of transportation to help address the long-standing problem of millions of children with disabilities failing to attend school in developing countries.

¡Traer al mundo un niño o niña siempre es un desafío! / Bringing up a child is always a challenge! (in Spanish)

This booklet was produced to provide parents of children with disabilities who are beneficiaries of early childhood and development (ECD) programs with introductory information and initial support to understand disabilities and seek support for their child's development. It is written in simple language. The booklet will be included in a welcome set given to families in Uruguay together with other support publications and goods. <http://www.mides.gub.uy/innovaportal/file/82660/1/cartilla-de-inclusion-temprana-web.pdf>

Inclusión temprana - Discapacidad, diversidad y accesibilidad para cursar la vida (Early Inclusion- Disability, diversity and accessibility for the life course)

The earliest years are critical in a child's development. Not only because of the links he or she establishes with the family and the immediate environment but also (and perhaps most importantly) because of the way the child gets to value him or herself. When a child is born with a disability, sometimes that condition overshadows everything else. Sometimes the burden of uncertainty, misinformation and prejudice will end up having more importance on the child's chances of development than the actual disability will. What can families do to overcome the at times paralyzing labyrinth of diagnoses and labels combined with their own feelings of perhaps isolation and/or ambivalence? How can they take advantage of the support available and generate the best possible expectations for their child? This publication seeks to address these challenges as constructively as possible. It was written to train ECD professionals working with low income families, who are in contact with children with disabilities as well with mothers and carers who have a disability.

<http://www.mides.gub.uy/innovaportal/file/82662/1/librillo-web.pdf>

UN Women's Issue brief on "Making the SDGs count for women and girls with disabilities"



This brief underlines the need to mainstream disability into all efforts to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5); highlights key issues for ending poverty (SDG 1) and ensuring healthy lives (SDG 3) for women and girls with disabilities; and calls for closing data gaps on gender and disability.

1. Issue brief available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/making-sdgs-count-for-women-with-disabilities.pdf?vs=2823>

2. Reference list available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/>

3. Spotlight on Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls available at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/multimedia/2017/7/infographic-spotlight-on-sdg-5>

4. 2017 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) Thematic review of SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, available at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/14383SDG5format-revOD.pdf>

UNICEF: Making Schools Accessible to Children with Disabilities

UNICEF India has developed a guidebook, "Making Schools Accessible to Children with Disabilities," with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Samarthyam, a Disabled Persons Organization (DPO), as part of the Prime Minister's Accessible India Campaign. Aimed at school administrators, school management committees and parents, the guidebook details the common infrastructure barriers children with disabilities face within schools and offers possible solutions to address these barriers. A checklist is included that can be used as a tool to assess the accessibility of schools and to identify areas for improvement. Clear standards and specifications are provided with photos and illustrations, which can be used with civil works personnel, to make the necessary changes. http://unicef.in/Uploads/Publications/Resources/pub_doc119.pdf

WHO: New QualityRights guidance and training tools

The WHO QualityRights initiative has published guidance and training tools to align services and practices with the requirements of the CRPD in order to promote the rights of people with psychosocial, cognitive and intellectual disabilities. The tools can be used to strengthen the capacity of mental health and human rights practitioners, people with psychosocial, intellectual and cognitive disabilities, people using mental health services, their families and carers, NGOs, DPOs and others. To access the materials visit:

http://who.int/mental_health/policy/quality_rights/guidance_training_tools/en/

Interested in providing feedback? Contact Natalie Drew, Technical Officer, Mental Health Policy and Service Development, drewn@who.int.

PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

3 December, International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been annually observed on 3 December around the world. The theme for IDPD 2017: [Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all](#). The centrality of resilience to sustainable development cuts across all the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda, pledging to “leave no one behind”, is premised on the resilience of those in vulnerable situations and the reduction of their exposure and vulnerability to economic, social and environmental shocks as well as disasters. The transformation towards sustainable and resilient society provides an opportunity for persons with disabilities to address their concerns and challenges through their full and active participation, together with other stakeholders, to design, develop and implement affordable and innovative solutions.

Events at UN Headquarters: Events for the 2017 IDPD celebration at UN Headquarters in New York City will be organized by the [Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#) (DESA) on 1 December 2017, in collaboration with Member States, the UN system, academic institutions, civil society, DPOs and the private sector. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/international-day-of-persons-with-disabilities-3-december/idpd2017.html>



3 December
International Day of Persons with Disabilities

take action disability-inclusion
 women with disabilities understanding disability mobilize action
 promote dignity plan events mainstream disability
 organize forums ensure equality
 develop social policies employment inclusive education
 social integration advocate human rights
 children with disabilities empowerment
 accessible healthcare
 data collection awareness-raising
 end stigma and stereotyping

Be informed! Get involved!
www.un.org/disabilities
enable@un.org

Accessible
 United Nations

12-25 September 2017: 72nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations (UNGA)

Third Committee of the UN General Assembly: Discussion on Women and Girls with Disabilities and the status of the Convention

The 72nd session of the UNGA discussed issues concerning women and girls with disabilities through its Third Committee and considered a resolution to advance their rights and inclusion. In support for the Third Committee, the Secretary-General issued the report entitled “Situation of women and girls with disabilities and the Status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto” (A/72/227), which provides an overview of the situation of women and girls with disabilities and presents the ongoing efforts and progress made by Governments. It concludes with recommendations for the further inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in the implementation of the Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Full document can be downloaded at:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/general-assembly.html>

18 to 24 September: World Federation of the Deaf - International Week of the Deaf 2017 (<https://wfdeaf.org>)

9 to 11 October: 33rd Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity, Hawaii, USA (<http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu>)

7 to 8 November: Conference on 'Domesticating the CRPD in the African region: A focus on access to justice and legal capacity,' South Africa.

The Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria is holding a conference on advancing the right to access to justice and legal capacity for persons with disabilities in Africa from 7 to 8 November 2017. For more information, please visit: <http://www.chr.up.ac.za/index.php/annual-disability-rights-conference.html>

8 to 10 November: 3rd International Conference of the World Federation of the Deaf, Budapest, Hungary, <http://wfdbudapest2017.com>

18 to 24 November: 23rd Conference of Asian Federation on Intellectual Disabilities (AFID), Dhaka Bangladesh <http://www.afid23.org>

10th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD

The 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD (COSP10) took place from **13 to 15 June 2017** at UN Headquarters in New York. The COSP is one of the largest and most diverse global disability meetings. This year, over 1300 delegates and civil society representatives attended COSP10, and participated in over 80 side-events, workshops, receptions and exhibitions. Statements, documents, webcast archives and CART transcripts of the official meetings are posted on the UN Enable website at: http://bit.ly/crpd_cosp10.

CRPD Ratification Status

175 countries have ratified the CRPD and 160 are signatories. A full list of countries can be found here on the [DESA Website](#).

The UN Enable Newsletter May-July is available at:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/united-nations-enable-newsletter.html>

The next GPCwd Newsletter will go out in January 2018.

Please share news and updates on your activities by 10 January 2018 with aburlyaeva@unicef.org

Warmest wishes,

GPCwd Secretariat
