

## **No One Left Behind: Tracking Aid to Persons with Disabilities**

Presented by:

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As we move into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) era of financing for development, a great deal of emphasis is being placed on the mantra “leave no one behind.” Global commitments are forming around the vision of enabling development that is not only sustainable, but also inclusive. Yet, the current reality is that pockets of poverty and limited opportunity persist among the most vulnerable citizens in many low- and middle-income countries. Specifically, people with disabilities are systematically left behind and excluded from many opportunities to improve their lives and livelihoods. With inclusive development being integrated throughout the sustainable development goals, development partners have significantly adapted the language of their programming to signify greater inclusion of people with disabilities. But the question remains: are development partners living up to their commitments in targeting assistance to vulnerable groups and with what results?

Researchers and students from the University of Massachusetts Boston and the College of William & Mary have developed and road test a methodology to track and analyze development finance allocated to people with disabilities. The first phase of the project focused on analyzing the development project portfolio of one multilateral aid agency (World Bank). This pilot study explored: to what extent are international commitments regarding the inclusion of persons with disabilities reflected in the strategies and policy guidance of development agencies and how is the inclusion of persons with disabilities operationalized through the design of specific projects and allocation practices of development partners?

Initial results will be discussed, as current efforts are underway to produce a final policy report that discusses the substantive findings and policy implications of the data analyzed. This report will also include recommendations for the scale up of this approach to additional development agencies and countries, as well as for subsequent studies, as funding is available.