



## International Conference: Evidence in Global Disability and Health

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## ABSTRACT

**Title:**                    **Accounting for Social Impacts? Chances and limitations of the Social Return on Investment approach in the field of livelihood promotion**

**Abstract text (limited to 300 words, should include background, methods, results and conclusions):**

Between October 2014 and December 2015, Pwani University (Kenya) and the Sociology of Diversity Chair (Technische Universität München) have been jointly developing an interview guide to capture the social impacts of livelihood development programs. This exploratory study funded by CBM International and CBM Germany investigates how the Social Return on Investment framework can be applied to the field of livelihood development for adults with disabilities and other vulnerable groups – as an attempt to concretely measure disability inclusion. The SROI approach requires adaptation when used in a specific context. So far, it has been mainly applied to fields in which the socio-economic values created can be analysed easily, such as the (re)integration of different groups into the job market or crime prevention against the background of a formal social security system.<sup>1</sup>

The tool we elaborated attempts to measure and account for a broader concept of value created by social investments than mere (financial) Return On Investment. Benefits and opportunities were considered from a Quality of Life perspective, combining material as well as immaterial, objective as well as subjective dimensions.<sup>2</sup> We also used small-scale tracer studies to find out which (broader) benefits and opportunities had been created for the target group and other stakeholders by livelihood development programmes.

Results display the range of positive and negative, social as well as financial impacts for (different groups of) beneficiaries, their families and communities. While discussions about possible monetisation can be seen as a chance for the respective organisation, we found it challenging to capture the input and impacts of an intervention that – even if it aims at financial and social empowerment – is essentially monetary. Furthermore, I will be sharing lessons learned about the limits inherent to the SROI approach in a context characterised by informal social security and diversified livelihoods.

## **Deadline for abstract submission: November 30, 2015**

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<sup>1</sup> Kehl, K.; Then, V.; Münscher, R. (2012): Social Return on Investment. In: H. K. Anheier, A. Schröder und V. Then (Hg.): Soziale Investitionen. Interdisziplinäre Perspektiven. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften / Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden GmbH, Wiesbaden (SpringerLink : Bücher), S. 313–331.

<sup>2</sup> Schalock, R. (2010): The Measurement and Use of Quality of Life-Related Outcomes. In: Kober, R. (Ed.): Enhancing the Quality of Life of People with Intellectual Disabilities. From Theory to Practice. Dordrecht, 3-16.

Please submit your abstract to: [disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk)

**Restricted to one first author abstract per participant.**

If you have any questions, please write to:

[disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:disabilitycentre@lshtm.ac.uk)