

Disability Inclusive Education: A Call to Action to Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education

In order to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, The Disability Inclusive Education Call to Action below was launched by civil society organizations at the Transforming Education Summit (TES), in support of all TES Action Tracks, and has since been endorsed by approximately 200 stakeholders—including civil society, governments, multilateral institutions, and advocates from around the globe. Our goal for this Disability Inclusive Education Call to Action is to advance the achievement of SDG 4 towards ensuring access to quality, inclusive, safe education for all learners across the humanitarian-development continuum, in particularly those with disabilities, and to encourage decision makers to continue building more disability-inclusive education systems.

The [UN Transforming Education Summit](#) was an opportunity for world leaders to commit to transforming education so that every child in the world can access **quality, equitable, inclusive education** and lifelong learning.

This includes the **240 million children with disabilities** worldwide who, even before COVID-19 disruptions to education, experienced disparities in learning. Compared to children without disabilities, children with disabilities were 49% more likely to have never attended school and 42% less likely to have foundational reading and numeracy skills ([UNICEF, 2021](#)). The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these discrepancies, compounding the learning crisis for the most marginalized learners.

Transforming education to reach all learners, including those with disabilities, is needed to ensure resilient and inclusive education systems. Solutions that support the inclusion of learners with disabilities, who are often those most at risk of neglect, stigma and abuse, are the same approaches that support the well-being and success of all learners.

Inclusive education, by focusing on the well-being and success of students with disabilities, is a means of achieving high-quality education for all children and young people ([UNCRPD, Art24 GC4](#)). Investment in inclusive education systems, with diversity at the core, is key to transforming education.

Recognising the power of inclusive education to transform education, we call on everyone to show that the 240 million children with disabilities matter and commit, by 2030, to:

1. Progressively increase budgetary allocations for disability-inclusive education towards being **at least 5% of education budgets**.
2. Set a medium to long-term target to **ensure all learners with disabilities are reached in all education programmes**, recognising that at least 10% of learners in any country will be learners with disabilities.
3. Ensure all education programmes and grants mainstream disability and include **disability-inclusion criteria and targets**.

Achieving these three commitments would not only reverse the education gap for children with disabilities but would transform education systems in a way that will bring benefits to all and will help make greater, and more rapid, progress towards the achievement of SDG4.

How to meet the commitments?

✓ **Progressively increase budgetary allocations for disability-inclusive education towards being at least 5% of education budgets.**

- **Adopt a 'twin-track' approach** to education budgeting that promotes system wide transformation to improve the quality of education for all, whilst also providing targeted support to learners with disabilities. This includes increasing the number of specialised teachers and support staff as well as accessible edtech and ensuring early identification and support for learners with disabilities.
- **Fund the specific support needs** of students with disabilities by budgeting for assistive technology, braille literacy, bilingual sign language education, and captioning, among others. Progressively phase out segregated schools and **reinvest in delivering truly inclusive education**.
- **Invest in teacher training**, including in teachers with disabilities, that enables and empowers teachers to create learning environments that accommodate diverse learning styles, such as applying Universal Design for Learning, and accessible assessments.
- **Promote participatory budgeting and budget** transparency that meaningfully engages learners with disabilities, organisations of and for persons with disabilities, and the teachers, parents, and carers of learners with disabilities.
- **Strengthen inter-sectoral alignment of budgets** to enable the provision of full support systems that respond to the interconnectedness of health, social protection, transportation, education (and other related sectors) for children and youth with disabilities and their families, from birth onward.

For practical ideas on how this can be done, review and use the **disability and gender responsive budgeting [toolkit](#)**.

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- Ensure all education data, from early childhood through to tertiary and vocational education and training, is fully disaggregated by gender and disability.
- Integrate the Washington Group Questions on Disability into all education management information systems.
- Support education systems to use the [UNICEF/Washington Group Child Functioning Module](#) to track and reach children with disabilities who are in and out of school.

✓ **Ensure all education programmes and grants mainstream disability and include disability-inclusion criteria and targets.**

- Develop clear criteria and targets on disability-inclusive education for all education programme grants.
- Ensure specific allocations and guidance on mainstreaming disability are included in all education funding programmes and grants.
- Track all donor investments in education at all levels using the OECD-DAC's [policy marker](#) on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

- Actively involve organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) as well as other civil society organisations, in the design, development and implementation of education programmes.

This is an ambitious call to action.

We believe it will truly transform education and CAN ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030. Will you join us in making this call a reality for all children?



Sign on to the call to action:

<https://bit.ly/TES-CTA>

Endorsed by:

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The RISE Institute





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Schweizerische Stiftung für Taubblinde
Fondation suisse en faveur des personnes sourdaveugles
Fondazione svizzera a favore delle persone sordocieche
Swiss Foundation for Persons with Deafblindness

THE
DELIA
FOUNDATION



NAD – The Norwegian
Association of Disabled



**Together
for girls**
STRENGTH IN NUMBERS



Trinidad & Tobago Blind Welfare Association

Est. 1914.

652-2079 || ttbwa.welfare@gmail.com



Advocating for persons with intellectual Disabilities!



UNGEI | UNITED NATIONS
GIRLS' EDUCATION
INITIATIVE



United Nations
Association of Sri Lanka





Governments and Multilaterals

Education Cannot Wait (ECW)

Minister David Sengh, Minister of Basic and Senior Secondary Education and Chief

Innovation Officer, Republic of Sierra Leone

Republic of Sierra Leone, Ministry of Basic and Senior Secondary Education

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

World Bank

Civil Society Organizations

ActionAid International

Advancing Inclusive Education and Development

Albanian Coalition for Education

All for Education! National Coalition of Mongolia

Amal Alliance

APAPE-Down Syndrome Togo (APAPE-DST)

Associação Angolana de Apoio a Pessoas Autistas e Transtornos Globais de Desenvolvimento
(APEGADA)

APFDC-Benin

Asdown Colombia

Aseman Nili Down Syndrome Association

Asociación Azul

Asociación Down Guayaquil/Ecuador

Asociacion Venezolana para el síndrome de Down (AVESID)

Asociación de Padres, Madres y Tutores de Personas con Discapacidad Intelectual Sucre

Asociación de Padres, Madres y Tutores de Personas con Discapacidad Intelectual Tarija

Associação Brasileira para Ação por Direitos das Pessoas Autistas

Asociación Síndrome de Down de la República Argentina (ASDRA)

Association d'Aide à l'Education de l'Enfant Handicapé (AAEEH)

Association pour la Gestion du Handicap

Avventuno

Basic Education Coalition
Blind Youth Association Nepal
Bugisu Initiative for Persons with Albinism
Building Tomorrow
Burundian Association for The Promotion of the Rights for Women with Disabilities
Byomire Inclusive Development Foundation Ltd
Cheshire Ethiopia
Cheshire Homes Society of Zambia
Childhood Education International
Christian Blind Mission (CBM)
CBM Global Disability Inclusion Nigeria
Coalition Éducation (French Campaign for Education)
Colectivo Down Perú
Commonwealth Disabled People's Forum
Comunidad Educativa Incluyente IAP
Confederación Mexicana de Organizaciones en favor de la Persona con Discapacidad
Intelectual (CONFE)
Croatian Union of Associations for Autism
Deafblind International (DBI)
Disability Aid Foundation (DAF)
Disability in Wales and Africa
Disability Inclusion Consulting and Coaching
Disability Partnerships Finland – Vammaiskumppanuus
Disability Rights Fund
Diverse Health Initiative
Doors of Hope
Down Guatemala
Down Syndrome Association of Gilan (DSGilan)
Down Syndrome Association of Estonia
Down Syndrome Association of Mauritius
Down Syndrome Association of Nepal
Down Syndrome Australia

Down Syndrome Association of Nigeria
Down Syndrome Foundation Uganda (DOSFU) Ltd
Down Syndrome Family Network
Down Syndrome International
Down Syndrome Kosova
Down Syndrome Resource Foundation
Down Syndrome Society of Kenya
Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development
Education Center for the Advancement of Women
Education for All Coalition
Embrace Kulture
European Christian Organization for Relief and Development (EU-CORD)
Festus Fajemilo Foundation
Fédération Togolaise des Associations de Personnes Handicapées (FETAPH)
Fida International
Fikir Ethiopia National Association on Intellectual Disabilities
Fount for Nations
Fourth Wave Foundation
Fourth Wave Foundation, Bengaluru
Fundación Down21 Chile
Fundación Síndrome de Down del Caribe
Fundación Visibilia
Global Campaign for Education
Global Campaign for Education-US
Global Research on Developmental Disabilities Collaborators (GRDDC)
GlobalPartnersUnited
Humanity & Inclusion
IBO Italia – Tanzania
Inclusion Down Belgium
Inclusion International
Inclusive Education Canada
Inclusive Education Consulting, LLC

Insieme21

Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate (IBVM/CJ)

International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment (ICEVI)

International Development Institute (IDI)

International Disability Alliance (IDA)

International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)

Kentalis International Foundation

Keystone Human Services International

Kupenda for the Children

Leonard Cheshire

Light for the World

Liliane Foundation

Malaysian Youth Diplomacy (MyDiplomacy)

Morogoro Saving the Poor Organization (MOSAPORG)

New Horizon Foundation of the Blind

Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD)

One World Association in Białystok (Poland)

Organisme de consultation, de formation et de recherche sur l'accessibilité universelle et l'inclusion (OCONFOR)

Pakistan Down Syndrome Association (PDSA)

Partnership for Early Childhood Development & Disability Rights (PECDDR)

PDRC International

Performance, Activity & Rehabilitation of Mentally & Intellectually Impaired Talent's Association (PAROMITA)

PPME Consulting Ltd

ProEdu Educacion Inclusiva de Calidad - 4D lab

Raees Child Education Initiative (RCEI)

Right To Live Society

RISE Institute

Rising Child Foundation

Roshelle Brago Boakye Foundation (Robbfoundation)

Rwanda Down Syndrome Organization

Salzburg Global Seminar
Saudi Association For Special Education
Scholl Zigure Lelo
Scottish Sensory Centre
Sedbot Educational Consult
See You Foundation
Send My Friend To School / Global Campaign for Education-UK
Shikshit yuva sewa simiti (SYSS)
Siaya Disability Forum
Sightsavers
Snoqualmie Valley School District
Soulink Lanka
South Pacific Educators in Vision Impairment Inc
Southern Africa Students Union (SASU)
Special Olympics
Sun Children NGO
Swiss Foundation for Persons With Deafblindness (TANNE)
The Delia Foundation
The Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD)
The Peter Ojiambo Foundation
The Swedish Association of Down Syndrome
Together for Girls
Trinidad and Tobago Blind Welfare Association
Trippinz Care Inc
Tubiteho NGO
Tujifunze Africa Foundation
Uganda National Self-Advocacy Initiative (UNSAI) Mental Health for All
United Nations Association of Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (UNA Sri Lanka),
affiliated with the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)
United Voice, Self-advocacy Society of Persons with Learning Disabilities Selangor and Kuala Lumpur
World Vision International

WPC Media (NIZAM Trading)

Yapesdi Down Syndrome Care Foundation Indonesia

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