



Policy Brief – “Embodied Inequalities in Disability and Development”

Co-organizers had the pleasure of hosting a book launch event at Think Corner on 5th May 2022 in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the University of Helsinki. Co-organizers wish to promote certain policy points based on the held discussion between NGOs, researchers and civil servants listed as below.

- New perspective on inclusive development requires promoting the rights of persons with disabilities across all foreign policy. As funding is scattered, conducting inequality analyses targeting persons with disabilities across funding instruments becomes essential.
- Disability and gender-disaggregated data of development practice addresses the intersectionality of disability insufficiently. Thus, developing guidance and tools - and monitoring their implementation - are called for at different levels of governance.
- The disproportionate risks of gender-based violence (GBV) against girls and women with disabilities need to be addressed. Finland should systematically advance and monitor the right to self-determination of girls and women with disabilities, and support disability-inclusive multi-sectoral responses to GBV.
- Advocates for a human rights -based approach to disability represent different sectors. Practical theory advanced by this publication creates more opportunities for collaboration in both the Global South and the North. The gap between academic and practical fields can be addressed through funding opportunities for the consortiums of diverse actors.
- Finland would benefit from multi-stakeholder dialogue in a more systematic way so that key information can be forwarded to targeted civil servants as well as Ministerial cabinet and Embassies abroad.
- There is a major gap in disability rights and climate policy. Hence, robust policy principles should be developed for supporting disability inclusion in climate funding that is a rapidly increasing priority in development policy. Importantly, a full participation of persons with disabilities must be ensured in decision-making processes regarding climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction.
- The funding of projects administered by persons with disabilities remains relatively low. Incentives are needed for incentives, such as hiring persons with disabilities. For the “triple-track” approach, it is necessary that the expertise received by mainstream actors has persons with disabilities involved. This is the responsibility of the donors.
- Often persons with disabilities rely on informal networks rather than institutionalized support. This puts emphasis on both data and enabling community scale support.

