Digital Development for All:

Leveraging Digital Accessibility in Internatiional Development

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Innovation?

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Question

- How and to what extent are development agencies addressing digital inclusion and accessibility in their work?

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Themes & Key Findings

Chapter 1:
Digital accessibility is not seeing as a priority

95 percent of interview respondents stated that raising awareness of the importance of digital inclusion and ICT accessibility was the most important factor in increasing its incorporation into policy and projects.

86 percent of development practitioners interviewed think that digital accessibility is important and should be embedded in internal policies and external operations.

Chapter 2:
Guidelines for Digital Accessibility are needed

In a selected review of active digital development projects, 96 percent had no specific reference to persons with disabilities as target beneficiaries.

90 percent of development practitioners interviewed were not aware of internal policies including procurement policies, human reources, and/or safeguards that specifically mention digital accessibility.

Chapter 3:
Knowledge Base on Digital Accessibility is needed

75 percent of development practitioners interviewed stated that they lack the knowledge and tools to adequately deploy ICT accessibility through their internal and external programs.

Chapter 4:
Coordination among stakeholders is needed

Half of development practitioners interviewed feel constraints from member country demands/requests.

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Checklist: Inclusive Digital Development

Frame digital accessibility as a co-benefit. Not only does digital accessibility have co-benefits for all types of development agency departments, it can help countries meet their global development agendas and human rights obligations, serve as a tool for civil society to advance equality, and aid the private sector in accessing larger markets.

Utilize existing guidelines and policies as frameworks. A number of existing guidelines and resources exist for agencies' easy adoption. All actors can play a role in promoting best practices, such as universal design or inclusive procurement, and raising awareness about international standards.

Develop technical knowledge and capabilities for better outcomes. Development agencies would benefit from a cross-departmental task force to assess inclusivity across internal and external operations. Development agencies see capacity to address digital accessibility as a value-add for their member countries, but don't have to develop expertise alone: civil society and the private sector have existing knowledge and experience. Government can create enabling policy environments through incentives or grants.

Create communities of practice. Development agencies can play a connecting role and facilitate partnerships with the private sector, civil society, and disabled persons organizations (DPOs) to enhance awareness and build local communities of practice. UN agencies, particularly, can utilize their wide reach and network, and governments and the private sector can participate in pilots and public-private partnerships.

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Principles

The Global Compact on Inclus

No seguro | cities4all.org/compact/

C4 ALL | CITIES FOR ALL
GLOBAL COMPACT ON INCLUSIVE AND ACCESSIBLE CITIES

CAMPAIGN COMPACT PARTNERS GET ENGAGED

English

01 Non-Discrimination

02 Accessibility

03 Participation

04 Inclusive Urban Policies and Programs

05 Capacity Building

06 Data for Development

The Global Compact on Inclusive & Accessible Cities

We the Signatories of this Global Compact reaffirm our determination to build cities for all and agree to actively promote and progressively realize the Universal Inclusion and Accessibility of all persons in cities and human settlements; particularly older persons and all persons with disabilities-including persons with psychosocial, intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Acknowledging the principles in the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, which recognize the inherent dignity, individual autonomy, worth and equal and inalienable rights of all persons, as well as the political commitments to accessibility and universal design enshrined in Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

Highlighting the historic and global consensus on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons in cities, which emerged out of the Habitat III process and recognizes cities, and their surroundings, as areas in which the Rights of all persons are guaranteed and can be exercised.

Considering that 1 billion persons, 15% of the world's population, experience some form of disability and that by 2050, over 20% of the world´s population will be 60 or older. Further highlighting that more than half of all persons with disabilities and persons 60 or older now live in cities and towns and this number is estimated to double representing over 2 billion persons by 2050.

Acknowledging that disability is a part of diversity and humanity, and that disability is the result of

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