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Bridging the Gap II

Acortando Distancias II

The path to inclusive and accessible
education policies

Data, indicators, and best practices for the
educational inclusion of girls and boys with disabilities

Concept Note

Virtual conference

4 and 5 May 2021





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Introduction

Article 24 of the United Nations Convention¹ on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) states that countries must take measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to inclusive education systems "at all levels". In addition, General Comment No. 4 of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities² of the UN reinforces the content of the article by interpreting inclusive education as a fundamental human right for all students and a means to make other human rights effective (point 10).

Despite the progress made in different countries, UNESCO's "[Global Education Monitoring Report](#)" ([GEM report 2020](#)) published in June 2020, which focused on the inclusion of people with disabilities, reminds us that there are persistent and alarming asymmetries in education.

A critical problem in most countries is the lack of disaggregated data which identify disability, or data matching to determine the number of students who satisfy various factors denoting vulnerability. Breakdowns by place of residence, gender and socio-economic status are more frequent, but there are significant gaps in relation to students with disabilities.

Designing, financing and implementing public policies for educational inclusion requires the possession of data on the number of people in school according to different disabilities, the percentage attending regular school, their educational trajectories, learning levels and if they are receiving the support and resources that they need³.

Several international instruments express the link between the right to education and the needs of persons with disabilities. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is focused on leaving no one behind, offers an exceptional opportunity to build more inclusive and just societies.

In this context, the work carried out by Bridging the Gap II / Acortando Distancias II (BtG-II) in Ecuador and Paraguay has focused on promoting inclusive public policies related to education and statistics, as well as promoting dialogue with civil society and international cooperation in accordance with the principles of the CRPD.

In Ecuador, BtG-II is focused on the right to inclusive education for girls and boys with disabilities. The project is carried out in close cooperation with the Ecuadorian organisations of people with disabilities, CONADIS and the Ministry of Education with

¹[Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.](#)

²[General comment no 4 - Article 24: Right to inclusive education \(Adopted on 26 August 2016\)](#)

³ Educational Goals 2021: "The advances and challenges of inclusive education in Latin America" - Álvaro Marchesi, Rosa Blanco, Laura Hernández.





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the aim of strengthening the capacity of people with disabilities to influence and participate in the development of the country's Educational Policy and ensure the inclusion of children with disabilities.

In Paraguay, BtG-II aims to improve the country's information systems and the use of disaggregated data. BtG-II supports the creation of indicators and measurable objectives for the National Action Plan for the Inclusion of People with Disabilities 2015-2030. Likewise, the project, together with the Ministry of Education and Science (MEC), focuses on the production of information related to the right to inclusive education.

In its aim to continue contributing, sharing and consolidating accumulated experience, as well as to improve coordination, cooperation and commitment to inclusion in accordance with the provisions of the CRPD, BtG-II is organising a dialogue conference on the subject of inclusive education and data collection in the region.

Objective

The objective of the conference is to promote the creation of a Latin American community of best practices in inclusive educational policies based on data obtained according to internationally recognised principles.

The specific objectives are the following:

- To take advantage of the BtG-II experience in Ecuador and Paraguay to improve data collection for the inclusion of disability in educational policies.
- To present theories and practices for the production of data related to the integration of disability in Latin American state systems.
- To promote the exchange of best practices in the Latin American region, presenting other successful experiences.
- To launch a call to action so that inclusive education policies are based on data obtained according to internationally recognised principles.

The conference consists of two virtual sessions that will take place on 4 and 5 May 2021:

- The **first session** will be of a technical nature and will represent an opportunity for operational dialogue. Based on the experience of BtG-II, best practices and opportunities for the effective planning of educational inclusion policies in the Latin American region will be shared, extending the view beyond Ecuador and Paraguay.
- The **second session** will serve more of a political purpose being focused on dialogue between institutional representatives. Its **objective** is to **renew the commitment of public actors and cooperation based on the experience, tools and recommendations developed throughout the implementation of**





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Bridging the Gap. With the aim of strengthening partnerships and reinforcing commitment, the conference will launch a call to action which addresses all stakeholders.

Target groups

- Public institutions in Latin America (in particular, Ministries of Education, Secretariats for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Statistical Institutes, human rights governing bodies, etc.)
- Organisations of People with Disabilities in Latin America
- Development professionals (bilateral agencies, EU delegations, UN agencies / funds / programmes)

Practical information

- Schedule:
 - May 4th, from 3:00 to 6:30pm CEST.
 - May 5th, from 3:30 to 5:00pm CEST.
- Registration linksç:
 - May 4th: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAsdu2sqzovGNS2u4rFWjW-5rnkUbMv5ww8>
 - May 5th:
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvfu6srzorHt1uPZXSugnriP6mqmMIWkAN>
- Working languages: Spanish, English, Portuguese, International signs
- Live captioning in Spanish





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What is Bridging the Gap II?

BtG-II is an initiative funded by the European Union whose objective is the socio-economic inclusion of people with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries. Specifically, Bridging the Gap promotes the rights of persons with disabilities to inclusion in Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Paraguay and Sudan, and also works to mainstream disability in international cooperation.

The project is led by FIIAPP, an entity that coordinates a consortium made up of the cooperation agencies of Austria (ADA), Spain (AECID) and Italy (AICS), as well as the European Disability Forum (EDF) and the International Consortium on Disability and Development (IDDC). The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN OHCHR) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland also participate as observers.

For more information: www.bridgingthegap-project.eu

