

When Programs End Overnight

The Impact of the Dismantling of USAID on Persons with Disabilities



24 June 2026



INCLUSIVE
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERS



Agenda



1. Introduction



2. Findings



3. Analysis



4. Call to Action



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1. INTRODUCTION:

Why it matters

- **Disability-inclusive development works.** USAID had built a model that delivered real results. The 2024 “Nothing Without Us” Disability Policy was accelerating this progress.
- The sudden dismantling of USAID ended these gains overnight, with no warning or transition. Persons with disabilities faced the greatest harm, and without action, recovery could take decades.



Photo credit: Augustine Kanyendula

2. FINDINGS

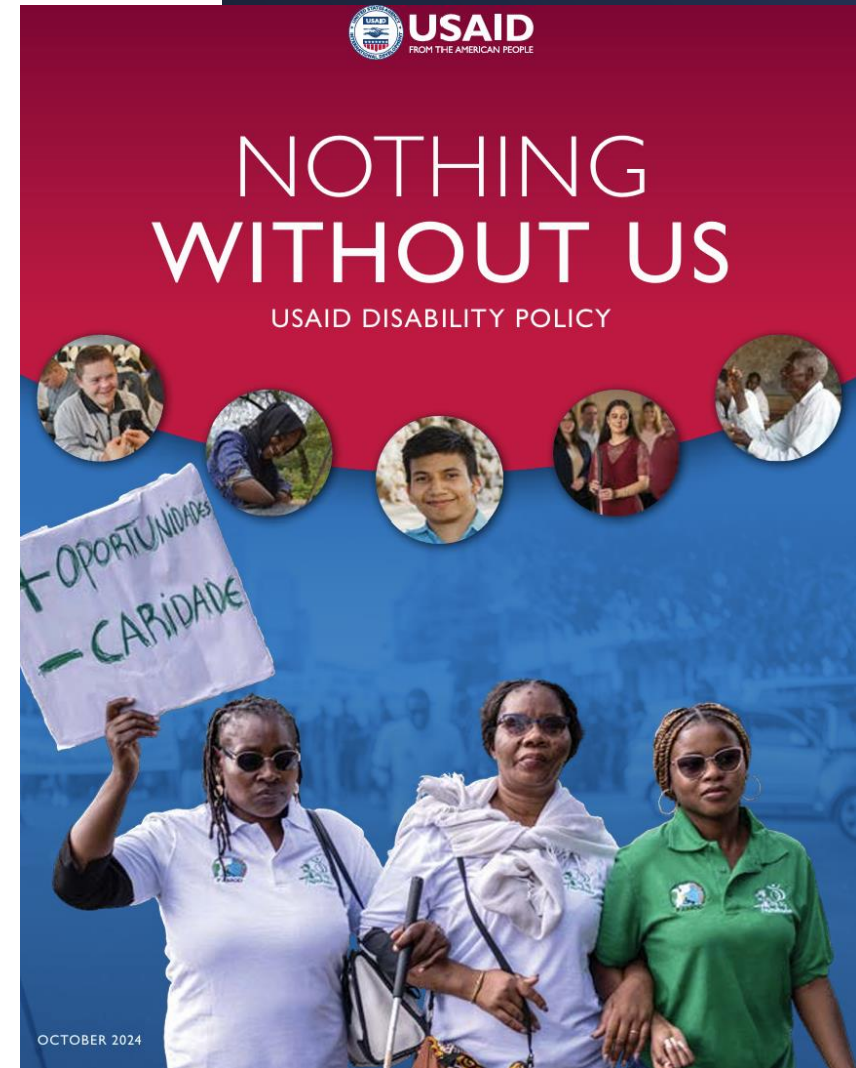


Primary Finding 1

USAID was recognized as a global leader in disability-inclusive development and positioned for expanded implementation following the release of its 2024 Disability Policy.

“USAID had released an updated Disability Policy in October 2024...This policy had tremendous potential as a platform to spotlight the need to expand and increase disability-related programming and activities.”

-Former USAID employee



Primary Finding 2

The abrupt closure of USAID caused disproportionate harm to persons with disabilities and their families.

"The shutdown of this project and others around the world has made an already vulnerable population more vulnerable."

-Survey respondent from Nigeria



Photo Credit: Augustine Kanyendula

Primary Finding 3

The closure triggered a systemic collapse of the disability-inclusive development ecosystem that will take decades to repair.

"Instead of remembering those 35 years [of USAID's investments], they will remember the way it ended."

-OPD representative in Pakistan



Primary Finding 4

No government, donor, or multilateral actor has stepped forward to fill USAID's role, and the communities, institutions, and systems that depended on that leadership are now operating without the technical and financial support previously provided.

"USAID left an oversize[d] shoe behind, with expectations that the government will fit in — the gap left by USAID is huge and cannot be filled in the short term."

— A government official, Malawi



Primary Finding 5

The USAID closure has done more than just end development programs; it has affected the credibility and global standing of the U.S., which may present long-term challenges for future U.S. re-engagement.

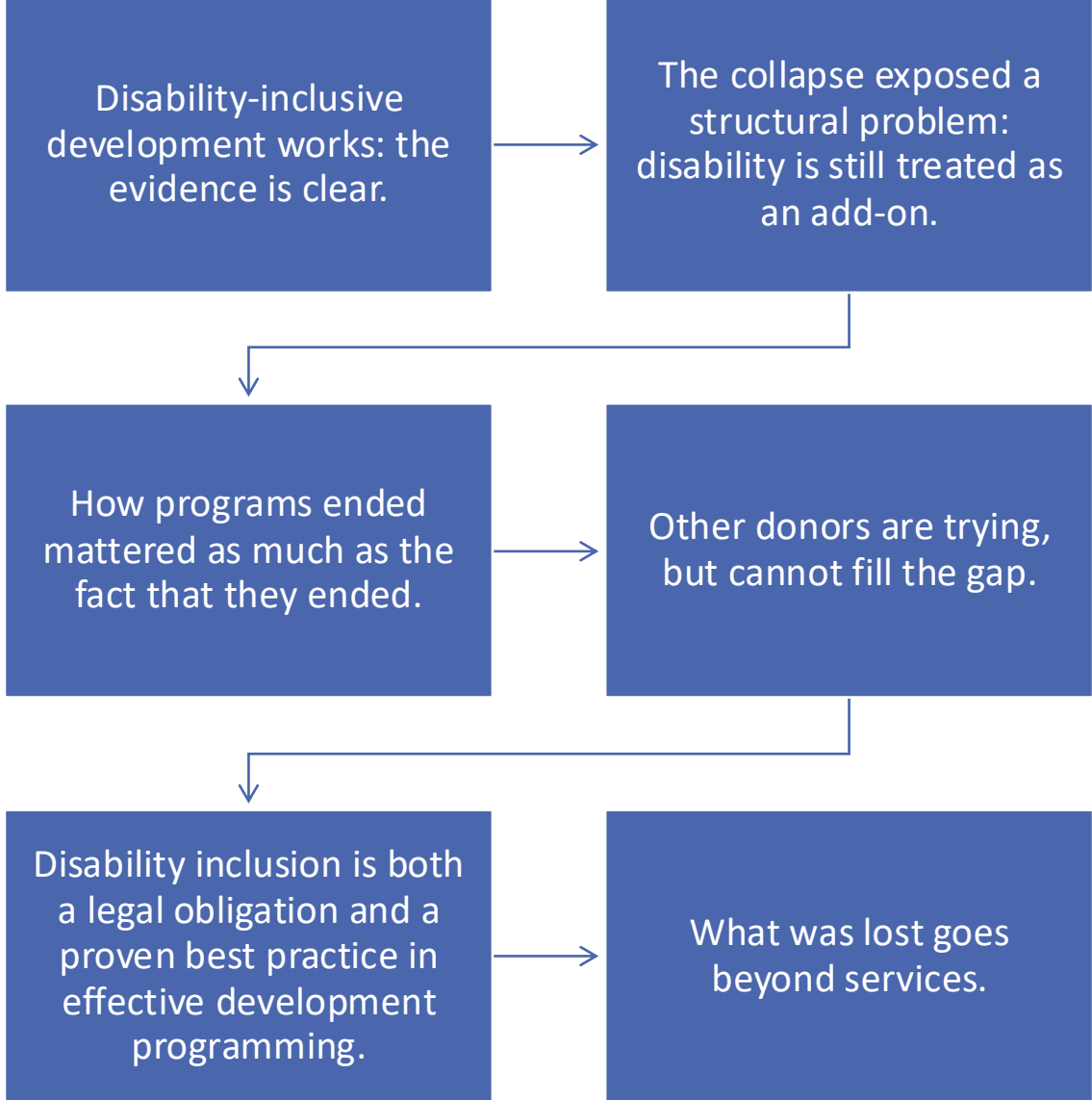
“Most of our USAID grant beneficiaries with disabilities are now doubtful of whether they will be supported through any other grant from now on.”

-Project Manager for USAID-Nepal





3. ANALYSIS



4. CALL TO ACTION



Photo credit: Suleiman Mamman

For the U.S. Congress

Require DOS to adopt the USAID 2024 “Nothing Without Us” Disability Policy and ensure that the decades of work that went into building it are not lost and that the United States continues to be a global leader in disability inclusive development.



Photo credit: Augustine Kanyendula

For Donors and Bilateral Agencies

Adopt the USAID 2024 “Nothing Without Us” Disability Policy, or an equivalent framework, as the foundation for disability-inclusive programming.



Photo Credit: Raana Zafar

For Non-U.S. Governments

Require disability inclusion as
a formal condition for any
development partner
operating within the country's
borders.



Photo Credit: Nazifa Tabassum Bonna

For Private Foundations

Fund disability inclusion as a core priority, not a supplementary grant.
Foundations have a unique role to play that goes beyond filling a temporary gap.



Photo Credit: Dekor Wesseh-Toe

For Corporations

Make disability inclusion a standard part of operations and investments in the countries where business is conducted, not a corporate social responsibility add-on that can be scaled back when priorities shift.



Photo credit: Patricia Andreu

For Organizations Working in International Development and Humanitarian Assistance

Build in inclusion from the start, with or without a donor requirement to do so.



Photo Credit: Nazifa Tabassum Bonna

The report can be found
on the IDP website:

<https://www.inclusivedevpartners.com/usaids-research/>



THANK YOU!

