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When Programs End Overnight

Webinar Q&A: Responses to Audience Questions

June 24, 2026 | Inclusive Development Partners

Thank you to everyone who submitted questions during our webinar. Due to time constraints, we were unable to address all of them live. The responses below draw on findings from our report, When Programs End Overnight: The Impact of the Dismantling of USAID on Persons with Disabilities, as well as the perspectives shared by our panelists.

Wider Systemic Response to the Cuts

Q: What is the one reform you would recommend to ensure that no future donor exit leaves persons with disabilities without services, voice, or protection?

Sindh Ministry of Education, Pakistan

A: Our report points to mandatory transition planning as the single most critical structural reform. The harm documented across all eight countries was not only caused by the loss of funding -- it was caused by the abruptness of the exit and the complete absence of a handover plan. Children lost school access overnight. Medications disappeared. Staff dispersed. Governments received no advance notice. A formal, binding requirement that any donor providing disability-inclusive programming must develop and implement a transition plan, including a minimum notice period, a beneficiary handover process, and a sustainability roadmap. This would not prevent funding loss, but it would prevent the worst of the resulting harm.

Q: What mechanisms can donors put in place to ensure disability inclusion remains a funding priority during periods of budget reductions or aid restructuring?

Deaf Professional, Kenya

A: Our report found that 83% of respondents reported little to no gap-filling by other donors after USAID's closure, and that disability inclusion has historically been

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