

## How can cooperation with their families improve people with disabilities' economic inclusion?

**Relevant articles of the CRPD:** 27

**Country:** Nicaragua

**Region:** Central America

**Languages available:** English, French (full report available in Spanish and Arabic)

Economic Activities by People with Disabilities and Their Families: Maricela Toledo Nacional, Nicaragua

### Description of the practice and the process involved

Assessing the needs of people with disabilities should include a study of their entourage: many economic inclusion programmes for people with disabilities also assist the parents of children with disabilities or other family members. Persons with disabilities are likely to **gain more in terms of social inclusion or empowerment if they participate directly in the economic activities**. Even if it might be difficult for them to run an economic activity independently, **due consideration should always be given to how people with disabilities can participate**.

Maricela Toledo Nicaragua is an association of blind persons that has a **grant programme** as part of its activities to **support the development** of its members.

Last year, a couple of visually-impaired persons applied for a grant with the idea of **making tamales, a local speciality** consisting of corn dough, meat and sauce wrapped in corn or banana leaf.

The cooking part was not easy for this visually-impaired couple, since they needed to produce a significant number of tamales per day to cover their costs.

They solved this problem by **partnering with an unemployed aunt who had long experience** cooking tamales for her large family. While their aunt carries out **most of the cooking**, the blind couple **buys the ingredients, cleans the corn or banana leaves, wraps the tamales in those leaves, and sells them** in the street.

## The effects / impact of the practice

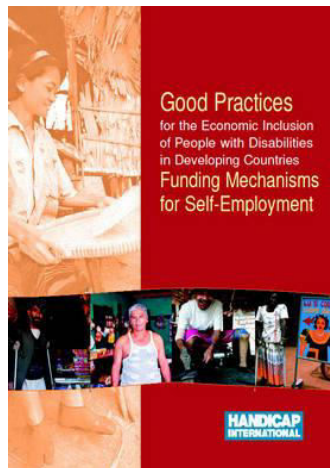
They are **no longer dependent** on their families for a living; indeed they have provided their aunt with **employment**, and **in one month their business made profits** of over US\$700 – **seven times the initial grant** they received.

- The most important impact for them? *“Before, we used to eat two times a day. Now, we manage to eat three times a day and provide for the rest of the family too!”*

## Background and context

**Full project report:** [Good Practices for the Economic Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Developing Countries: Funding Mechanisms for Self-Employment](#) (Handicap International, 2006)

**Criteria for the good practices:** see p. 41 of the full report.



**Recommendations from the good practices:** see full report pp 87 – 90 of the full report.

**Links to further resources:**

[Full text on article 27 – Work and employment](#)