

How can a Disabled People's Organisation improve people with disabilities' access to loans and economic inclusion?

Relevant articles of the CRPD: 27

Country: Nicaragua

Region: Central America

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

Revolving Funds: ADRN, Nicaragua

Description of the practice and the process involved

Asociación de Discapacitados de la Resistancia Nicaragüense (ADRN), Nicaragua

ADRN decided to **provide credit to its members** since people with disabilities are not covered by any financial institution in Nicaragua, since most of them have very few economic resources. ADRN's goal is **to inject the capital that is needed to expand or create a business.**

The rotating fund started with the **fees of the members** (US\$7 per year). After a few years, the programme was **so successful that it received a grant** from the Danish Association of People with Disabilities and Oxfam Québec to **expand its operations and receive technical assistance.** The programme was quickly **replicated** in other regions of the country.

ADRN aims to **achieve self-sustainability – so it charges interest and application fees** – and even though 'portfolio at risk' is still high (seven per cent) it has been **decreasing**, particular after the **technical assistance received.**

The factors that made this practice possible

According to Eduardo Díaz from ADRN, the keys to success have been:

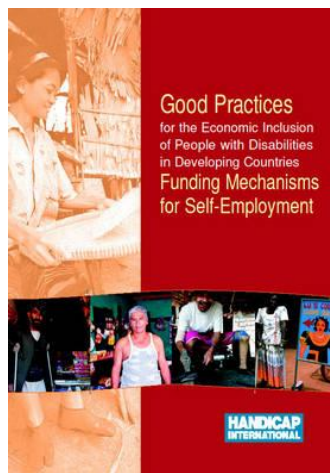
- Conducting a **strict evaluation of the business plans** before disbursement of the loans;
- Making sure borrowers **understand the fund's rules**;
- **Enforcing those rules as required**;
- And **providing training and follow-up** for the users.

The effects / impact of the practice

Ciriaco González received a loan a year ago and used it to diversify the candy he sells on the streets. He was also able to venture into the lottery business. His family now has a higher income.

“Right now, I buy the lottery from an intermediary. With the next loan, I will be able to buy the lottery directly from the main office, so that I will be able to make more profits. In addition, if I sell a winning ticket, the commission will be for me, not for the intermediary!” says Ciriaco.

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](#)