The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015, promises international development will “leave no one behind”. Yet too often, persons with disabilities (PWD) are left out of development programs and prevented from enjoying rights recognized by international law. Drawing on the University of Washington’s deep expertise in disability and socio-legal studies, human rights law and practice, and international studies, the Disability Inclusive Development Initiative is a multidisciplinary research and advocacy project that works to support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development. The DIDI aims to connect high-achieving graduate and undergraduate students with private and public sector organizations seeking informed, globally-minded and rights-based analyses to advance their strategic objectives and support disability inclusive initiatives. Core components of the project include:

- Populating an open access knowledge sharing platform that highlights best practices and model policies promoting disability inclusive development,
- Producing student and faculty written research briefs on a wide-range of policy issues relevant to PWD, with a particular emphasis on overlapping components of discrimination such as gender and age,
- Hosting workshops on inclusive development policy and practices for organizations engaged in international human rights and development work,
- Integrating a diverse group of student researchers including students with disabilities into the initiative’s work, supplementing classroom learning with hands-on experience and preparing students to be global citizens committed to advancing social justice and inclusion.

To learn more about DIDI, contact Stephen Meyers, sjmeyers@uw.edu, and Megan McCloskey, meganmc@uw.edu.
DISABILITY INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE COHORT

Leadership

Megan McCloskey | Senior DIDI Fellow; Ph.D. Candidate, School of Law
Stephen Meyers | Assistant Professor; Law, Societies and Justice, Disability Studies and Jackson School of International Studies.

Graduate Student Fellows

Shixin Huang | Ph.D. Student, Jackson School of International Studies
Isatou Jallow | Ph.D. Student, School of Law
Anisa Proda | Masters in Applied International Studies, Jackson School of International Studies

Undergraduate Student Fellows

Rebecca Andrews | IPI Disability Inclusive Development Fellow
Kara Eagens | IPI Disability Inclusive Development Fellow
Madison Moreno | IPI Disability Inclusive Development Fellow
Jessica Niewohner | IPI Disability Inclusive Development Fellow
Shannon Pierson | IPI Cybersecurity & Disability Inclusive Development Fellow
Jennifer Wood | IPI Disability Inclusive Development Fellow

INTERNATIONAL POLICY INSTITUTE

The International Policy Institute is funded by a grant from Carnegie Corporation of New York aimed at improving the transfer of research and expertise between higher education and the policy world in the area of global affairs. We leverage the research and expertise of Jackson School faculty and host a platform for collaboration between the UW, partner universities and international affairs practitioners, including business leaders, international development experts, government officials, and security professionals.