## **UJNICEF: For every child logo**

## **Concept Note**

## **GDS Side Event: Collaborative Workshop to Develop a Global Toolkit for Addressing Ableism, Stigma & Discrimination Towards Children With Disabilities And Their Families**

**Wednesday,** **16 February** **12.30pm CET/6:30 EST**

**Please register at:** [**https://unicef.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_wKQGhBDzQX-rQxtpEpRiPw**](https://unicef.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wKQGhBDzQX-rQxtpEpRiPw)

***International Sign and Real time captioning will be provided***

Despite the fact that ableist thinking is foundational to many of the systems and processes defining our communities, as well as underpinning decisions made during programme development, as a concept, it is largely overlooked and poorly understood as a feature of SBC programming.

SBC practitioners require further tools and inspiration with which to practically engage with ableism. If left unaddressed, knock-on effects related to stigma and discrimination stand to undermine all SBC outcomes. The effectiveness of SBC work in relation to disability inclusive programming is both limited and undermined by the the lack of:

* a comprehensive, systematic and evidence-based approach to address stigma and support inclusion;
* validated research tools for formative research to identify the lived experience of people with disabilities and their families in specific communities;
* measurements of results and changes in attitudes, beliefs, norms, social interactions, practices, inclusion as a result of interventions;
* engagement of children with disabilities, their families and disabled persons organizations in situation analysis, bottlenecks identification and analysis, development of solutions, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of interventions.

UNICEF, along with partners, has been addressing these gaps in a number of ways. These include conducting an evidence review of SBC interventions to address disability specific stigma in 2020 ([see UNICEF ECARO report](https://www.dropbox.com/s/mi2wmzt2z36klys/UNICEF-synthesis-report_stigma%20against%20disability_final.pdf?dl=0) and [Briefing note here](https://www.dropbox.com/s/rdu57c3plfsf1kt/UNICEF-Advocacy-Brief_final_stigma%20and%20disability%20.pdf?dl=0)), mapping the available evidence on communication for SBC interventions addressing stigma and discrimination against children with disabilities (with Oxford Policy Management, Leonard Cheshire and the P4EC Consultancy Group), and collaborating with Drexel University to develop a set of research tools to measure attitudes and norms around children with disabilities and an M&E Framework to track and assess the results of interventions in this area.

Despite the clarity that seems to be emerging around best practices, the complexity of addressing stigma and discrimination facing children with disabilities is undeniable. This is a space that can easily feel theoretically complex and difficult to navigate effectively. Those engaged in C4D, SBC and C4SBC work lack a central knowledge base where evidence-based, practical tools and resources can be readily accessed.

UNICEF has engaged ThinkPlace, a global design and innovation firm, and Light for the World, a global disability and development organisation, to co-design a global toolkit that can act as this central knowledge base. The vision is for the toolkit to be highly practical and accessible by a diverse global audience operating across SBC contexts.

In this workshop, we intend to achieve the following objectives:

* + **Frame the conversation** by sharing our progress on the development of the global toolkit
  + **Validate** the modules and key components
  + **Seek partners** for engagement, validation and testing
  + **Facilitate pathways of engagement** to enable SBC practitioners, disability inclusion practitioners, advocates, people with disabilities, children with disabilities and their families are able to give input into the requirements for the toolkit.

We propose to achieve these objectives by conducting the following activities:

* **Welcome & Framing the Toolkit |** Introducing our strategic intent, including assumptions and expected outcomes/impact; share details on the design/development process | *10 mins*
* **Presentation of Modules & Gathering Insight |** Introduce key topics and conduct interactive exercise to source tools, techniques, case studies and best practices | *45 mins*
* **Call to Action |** Introduce our stakeholder engagement strategy (comprised of the “Global Practice Lab”) and confirm interest in participating | *10 mins*
* **Q&A and Closing |** Sourcing feedback, questions and comments | *10 mins*

In this collaborative virtual workshop, participants will have the opportunity to validate the direction of the toolkit while also contributing meaningfully to its content and development. We aim to be transparent about the development process, and to invite participants into the process should they wish to join us. By joining our stakeholder advisory group (“Global Practice Lab”), we will also invite participants to lend their experience, expertise and guidance to ensuring the toolkit is as practical, accessible and effective as possible.

Our intention is that through the practical guidance, resources and tools provided in this toolkit, those working at the intersection of disability inclusion and SBC are enabled to develop evidence-based, effective programming that achieves positive, measurable and sustainable outcomes for children with disability everywhere.