



**LIVING WITHOUT BARRIERS:
PARTNERING WITH GOVERNMENT
TO COMBAT POVERTY**

**1991:
Founding of Inclusion Inter-Americana**



1993:
**Panama Participates in
Declaration of Managua**

"We want a **society based on equity, justice, equality and interdependence**... that ensures a better living standard for everyone, without discrimination of any kind... that recognizes and accepts diversity as a fundamental part for social coexistence... whose priority is the human condition of all its constituents... that ensures their dignity, their rights, their self-determination, their contribution to community living and their full access to the social assets."

Declaration of Managua, December 3, 2003



1995 & 2000

**INCLUSION PANAMA COMMITS TO
FULL INCLUSION**

1999 & 2004

**FORUMS OF POLITICAL PARTIES
COMMITMENT OF CANDIDATES
TO
INCLUSION**



2004

ELECTION OF MARTIN TORRIJOS

CREATION OF SENADIS



SENADIS Mission

To direct and execute a policy of social inclusion of persons with disabilities and their families, promoting a change of attitudes, respect for human rights and equalization of opportunities



2007
SENADIS & INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL
SIGN FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT
FOR COOPERATION

2007
SENADIS & INCLUSION INTERNATIONAL
SIGN CONTRACT FOR
“LIVING WITHOUT BARRIERS”

Total budget: \$4.2 million



- Ministry of the Presidency
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Education
- University of Panamá,
- University of the Américas,
- Legal System
- Ministry of Social Affairs

PROJECT OUTCOMES

- Neonatal testing established at Children's Hospital (for PKU, etc.)
- Funding of Cooperative Association to support new cooperatives of families and persons with disabilities
- Health subsidies for 438 persons with disabilities
- Creation of new diploma on barrier-free architecture



- Development of specialized masters program for senior government officials
- Construction of 3 rural rehabilitation centres
- Training of health and education officials to work in rehabilitation centres
- Purchase of 6 accessible busses
- Retrofitting of 12 schools
- Retrofitting of public buildings and parks
- Support to civil society







CHALLENGES

- First time government had contracted with NGO
- Changing legal system and requirements
- Lack of precedents/experience:
 - Master's Degree
 - Busses
 - Reporting mechanisms
 - Banking

BENEFITS

- Subsidies continuing
- Lasting infrastructure, training, businesses
- Increased participation of people with disabilities and families



Direct and Indirect Poverty Reduction

Through

- Income generation
- Subsidies
- Access to education and community
- Health promotion
- Training