

## Best Practices Guide for Inclusive Advocacy

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*This working document was drafted by InterAction's Public Policy Committee Equity Task Force.*

Defining Inclusive Advocacy towards USG:

- Inclusive advocacy means working towards equity and social justice through the empowerment of historically marginalized and underrepresented groups, who are beneficiaries of USG programs and services directly in decision-making processes affecting their lives. In addition to practicing participatory advocacy with and at the direction of diverse and representative voices, this also requires our organizations to advocate on topics integral to DEI in U.S. foreign assistance. The following guide provides actionable inclusive advocacy practices that advocates and organizations may adopt to ensure advocacy practices are inclusive and empowering.

What purpose the Best Practices Guide can serve:

- The Best Practices Guide is a resource for the INGO community and InterAction members. The guide provides values and actions that can be adopted by advocates to ensure the advocacy conducted towards the United States Government is inherently diverse, equitable and inclusive. Furthermore, the guide demonstrates daily actionable practices that both advocates and organizations can practice to build diverse advocacy teams and carry out advocacy practices that work towards equity and social justice through the empowerment of underrepresented groups. This guide is not all-inclusive, and should be viewed as a starting point, a call to action, for all organizations to live and actively practice inclusion on both how we advocate and what we advocate for.

What does Inclusive Advocacy towards USG look like:

- Advocates are diverse and connected to policy topic areas
- Advocacy is driven by:
  - Values of equity including intersectionality, anti-racism, diversity, and inclusion
  - Range of voices and perspectives
  - Needs and perspectives of members of affected communities/people with lived experience
  - Evidence-base human-centered context
  - transparency in policy advocacy efforts and accountability to communities directly impacted by proposed policies
- Policy writers are encouraged to look at the root cause of an issue
- Affected communities are given opportunities to share their insights on policy recommendations, priorities, and possible “root causes” of an issue
- Advocates make the necessary connection between DEI and achieving development outcomes
- Narratives and framings that play into harmful stereotypes are avoided

How can InterAction Members practice inclusive advocacy towards USG:

- Hire a diversified pipeline of interns and advocates
  - Actively seek interns and advocacy candidates from diverse or non-traditional backgrounds
  - Re-examine that organization's advocates reflect either the representation, or have connections to the target population they are advocating for

- Create space and opportunity to for those with lived experience to be heard within consultations, Hill meetings and advocacy activities
- Actively course correct narratives and framings that play into harmful stereotypes
- Normalize the use of translation and cross-language communication during advocacy meetings and consultation processes
- Prioritize and accommodate the representation of those with lived experience in meetings with USG agencies and representatives
- Proactively include DEI policies and actions, as illustrated in the forthcoming InterAction DEI Compact
- Utilize the Elevating Local Perspectives Consultation Best Practices Guide developed by InterAction (to be published)
- Utilize and contribute to InterAction DEI Advocacy and Resource Database Library
- Contribute to the InterAction Inclusive Advocacy Contact List
  - Coordinate with representatives from the Global South