



### Recommendations for the next MFF

Global development and humanitarian action will never be sustainable nor inclusive if persons with disabilities are left behind. IDDC believes that the EU has the power to make a fundamental difference by adequately addressing disability in its next financial framework.

Nearly one fifth of the world population, about one billion people, are persons with disabilities [1]. They are the world's largest minority [2] and at least 19% of the world female population are women and girls with disabilities. [3] For a long time, they have been kept on the margins of mainstream global development strategies and humanitarian frameworks. Discriminatory policies and barriers have created a higher risk of poverty for all persons with disabilities and are harming national economies and whole societies. According to the World Bank, we will not be able to achieve our primary goal of eliminating extreme poverty by 2030 unless ambitious measures are taken to address the specific stakes related to disability. [4] Disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments, and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. [5]

#### **European Union commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)**

The European Union (EU), the biggest aid donor and the first regional body to ratify the UNCRPD, has a unique role to play in breaking the cycle of poverty and disability and promote disability inclusive development. The CRPD is the first comprehensive human rights treaty to be ratified by the EU as a whole and it sets out minimum standards for protecting and safeguarding a full range of civil, political, social, and economic rights for persons with disabilities while being also legally binding. In 2015, the EU was reviewed by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Regarding article 32 on international cooperation, the Committee called on the EU to **adopt an harmonized policy on disability-inclusive development and establish a systematic approach to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in all European Union international cooperation policies and programmes, appoint disability focal points in related institutions and take the lead in the implementation of disability-inclusive Sustainable Development Goals.**

In line with its commitments under the UNCRPD, the EU included disability as a cross-cutting issue in the majority of its financial instruments under Heading 4 of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and in the European Development Fund, which is currently outside the EU budget.

Therefore, regarding the current negotiations on the new MFF, IDDC makes the following recommendations concerning development and humanitarian policy and programming.

- Given the needs and rights at stake, IDDC calls on the EU to **at least maintain the current level of ODA** in the next EU MFF. We urge the EU to maintain also the current commitment to spend at least **20% of ODA on social inclusion and human development** in line with the European Consensus on Development and the EU's commitments towards the UN CRPD.
- **EU investment in human rights**, including the rights of persons with disabilities, should remain a priority.
- The EU must keep its commitments to the UNCRPD by continuing including **disability as a cross-cutting issue** in the heading on international cooperation in the next MFF and the subsequent financial instruments, including the trust funds. Disability inclusion is a decisive cross-cutting element to achieve also the 2030's Agenda's objectives.
- The EU should include a systematic **assessment of the CRPD compliance** in the awarding and evaluation processes of EU funded projects; all programs supported by the EU should thus be both inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.
- As highlighted by the Committee, the EU must put in place mechanisms to **disaggregate data by disability**, as part of its EU development programmes. IDDC recommends that the EU uses the Washington group [7] set of questions. More generally, a systematic and institutionalised approach is needed to properly mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities across all the EU international cooperation policies and programmes.
- IDDC strongly recommends the introduction of a new **Disability Marker** at the level of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (a UK proposal is under-discussion and was officially supported by the EU<sup>1</sup>). A disability marker will provide much needed quantitative and qualitative data to track the use of ODA for the benefit of disability inclusion and rights, through both mainstreaming and specific actions. It will thus allow donors and recipient governments to monitor progress, and reinforce their human rights based approach. The EU should continue pushing towards the OECD for the introduction of the disability marker, and use it for the next MFF.
- The EU must strengthen its pluralistic approach towards diverse local civil society engagement and give equal opportunity to receive **funding, including for Disabled People Organisations (DPO)**. The EU should have diverse, simplified and inclusive funding modalities and mechanisms.

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[http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT/RD\(2018\)1/RD3&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT/RD(2018)1/RD3&docLanguage=En)

→ IDDC calls to keep the specific reference to disability and in particular the obligation to ensure **accessibility** for persons with disabilities in the regulation laying down common rules and procedures for the implementation of the Union's instruments for financing external action (CIR). Furthermore, in order to implement this commitment, internal guidance that outlines key practical features of accessible infrastructure need to be prepared and disseminated. EU Delegations and staff need to be trained accordingly. IDDC recommends building on AUSAID guidelines for universal design. We stand ready to support EU staff.

## **Conclusions**

In order to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to fulfil its pledge of leaving no one behind, it is essential to break the cycle of poverty and disability. Investing in inclusion brings positive gains to person with disabilities, their families and society overall. The EU has an essential leading role to play in promoting disability-inclusive development and the new MFF will be crucial to achieve an effective EU development cooperation in line with the Union's values, principles, and international commitments.

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[1] World report on disability, WHO and the World Bank, 2011

[2] <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs352/en/>

[3] World report on disability, WHO and the World Bank, 2011

[4] Comments made by Maninder Gill, Director, Social, Urban, Rural, and Resilience Global Practice at the launch of DfID's Disability Framework in 2014. See <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/speech/2014/12/03/the-world-bank-groups-approach-to-tackling-disability>.

[5] Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Preamble, available at <http://www.un.org/disabilities/convention/conventionfull.shtml>

[6] <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/226/55/PDF/G1522655.pdf?OpenElement>

[7] <http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/short-set-of-disability-questions/>

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