



This project is funded by the European Union



A report about the work Bridging the Gap is doing



Bridging the Gap is the name of a group of 8 organisations in Europe. They work together to make sure people with disabilities are included in the projects that the **EU** pays for, which make things better in poorer countries.



They do this because everyone has rights, including people with disabilities. But in poor countries sometimes people with disabilities are not included and do not get services to help them.



All countries in the **EU** have signed the **UNCRDP**. This is the **United Nations Convention on the Rights for People with Disabilities**. This means each country will make sure people with disabilities have their rights.



The **EU state** also signed to agree to the **UNCRDP**. The **EU** also gives money to poor countries to help them make changes to make things better.



In 2015 the **EU** was checked to see how well they were including people with disabilities in projects in poor countries. They found that they could have done better to include people with disabilities. They must be included in the plans and they need to show how things have changed for the better for people with disabilities.



The next big check is in 2021. It will see if people with disabilities are included more in planning and in projects in poor countries that get **EU** money.



This report shows how the **EU** is doing so far to make sure people with disabilities are included in the plans and also in putting these plans into practice.



The **UNCRDP** committee wants the **EU** to measure and count how many and how well people with disabilities are included in projects.



Projects in other countries are good at making sure women have the same opportunities. But they also need to think about fair opportunities for all people with disabilities. This is called intersectionality – it means when people are disadvantaged because of their race or sex as well as their disability. This can give them more problems to overcome.



When funding is available for new projects in poor countries, people with disabilities are not always talked about.



Some organisations run by people with disabilities in poor countries find it hard to apply for **EU** money if they have no computers. They need help to apply so it is fair to everyone.



Organisations in poor countries that get **EU** grant money need to include doing disability training.






These are the most important things that **EU funded projects must do**



They must only fund projects that take away barriers for people with disabilities. They must not fund projects that put barriers up and keep people with disabilities apart from everyday life.



They need to find more good examples of projects that include people with disabilities in other countries.

	<p>They should share these stories of good examples so other people and groups can learn.</p>
	<p>They should make sure Disabled People's Organisations know how to apply for funding.</p>
	<p>They should make a disability inclusion action plan for their work in the future.</p>
	<p>They need to make sure money is put aside so that disability rights are included in plans to help the people in poor countries.</p>
	<p>They have to make sure gender and disability are made important in all plans.</p>

Reports from other countries

Ecuador



Ecuador is in South America and has 17 million people.



Ecuador has money from the **EU** to pay for projects to make more jobs.



The country has a National Development plan from 2017 to 2021. The plan includes the rights of people with disabilities.



But the government doesn't know the full numbers of people with disabilities.



Disabled People's Organisations need to work together more to help people with disabilities.



People with disabilities in **Ecuador** need more accessible information.

Ethiopia



Ethiopia is a very poor country in East Africa. 109 million people live there.



Ethiopia is working hard to stop climate change and it has planted lots of trees.

It also works hard to keep peace with other countries.



But people in **Ethiopia** think that people with disabilities do not give anything to their community so they are not included.

In the areas in the countryside people with disabilities are even locked away because families are worried about what others will think about them. Life is better for people with disabilities in cities and towns.



The official numbers of people with disabilities is low so **Ethiopia** needs to count all people with disabilities.



People with disabilities need to be included in all **Ethiopia's** plans and projects.



People with disabilities need better services and transport to meet their needs. Women and girls with disabilities especially need better support.



Disabled People's Organisations need help so they can grow and be stronger and use technology better.

Paraguay



Paraguay is in South America. It has about 7 million people. It has no coast as it is surrounded by other countries.



Paraguay works hard to include people with disabilities in plans and projects. They made a National Disability plan for 2015 to 2020. Now they must make sure these plans happen to change the lives of people with disabilities.



They are planning for children with disabilities to go to mainstream school with other children.



They don't know exactly how many children in the country have disabilities.



They still need to do more to include children and young people with disabilities.



Paraguay needs to make transport better for people with disabilities.



They also need to make more accessible information about events and funding opportunities that people with disabilities can apply for.



Disabled People's Organisations need to support their members to come together and speak with one voice about disability rights.

Sudan



Sudan is a poor country in East Africa with 42 million people. There is fighting and poverty in Sudan so it has a lot of problems.






The **EU** is helping **Sudan** to give people basic services such as education, health, jobs, food and to be peaceful, so the people do not have to leave the country for their own safety.



Life is very hard for people with disabilities. As well as poverty they can experience violence and discrimination.



Sudan says there are less people with disabilities than there really are.

	<p>Some people in Sudan do not have a fixed home but they are always on the move. This means it is very hard for children and adults with disabilities to get education or jobs.</p>
	<p>The government made some new laws about supporting people with disabilities but there has not been much action to change things so far.</p>
	<p>The disability movement needs a lot of help to develop and make sure people with disabilities can get the benefit from things the EU is funding in Sudan.</p>

Original research report by Bridging the Gap coordinated by Charlotte Axelsson July 2019

Entitled 'Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms'

Available at <https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-European-Union-development-cooperation.pdf>

Easy read report produced November 2019 by Building Bridges Training
www.building-bridges-training.org

