

# Disability Partnership Finland

## Terms of Reference for Programme Evaluation

### 1. Background to the evaluation

Disability Partnership Finland (the Partnership) is a registered non-governmental organization founded in 1989. As per the statutes, the purpose of the organization is to work for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities in developing countries and serve as a service and coordination body for its member organizations in questions related to disability and development. In 2010, the development cooperation programme of the Partnership was formed based on the projects of the member organizations and the programme started receiving the programme-based support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA).

The Partnership consists of its member organisations and the secretariat. The Partnership has a six-year development cooperation programme that covers years from 2016 to 2021.

The seven full members of the Partnership are the following Finnish DPOs: Finnish Association of the Deaf (Kuurojen Liitto); Threshold Association (Kynnys); Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities (Invalidiliitto); Finnish Federation of the Visually Impaired (Näkövammaisten liitto); Finnish Federation of Swedish Speaking Hard of Hearing (Svenska hörsselförbundet); Inclusion Finland FDUV (FDUV); and Finnish Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (Kehitysvammaliitto). In addition, the Abilis Foundation is an associate member.

The MFA is the main donor for the programme through the programme-based support instrument. Programme support by the MFA is discretionary government support based on the provisions of the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers (2001/688). It is guided by the description of the modality (2017) and the set general conditions for the use of discretionary government transfers granted by the MFA and additional conditions for programme support (2018). The present funding period is 2018-2021.

#### 1.1. Description of the programme to be evaluated

The main modality for the programme implementation is the projects coordinated by the Finnish member organizations and implemented by the partner organizations in the Global South. In addition, in Finland the Programme is implemented through expert services for mainstreaming disability into Finnish development actors, development communication, advocacy and other similar means for advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Programme is planned and implemented by DPOs both in Finland and in the Global South and 100 % of the Programme focuses on the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities (PwDs). The foundation of the Programme is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). All the work conducted as part of the Programme contributes to the implementation of the Convention at national level in the Global South and in Finland.

Whereas most development actors active in disability issues aim towards disability inclusion and have PwDs as their target group, a much smaller number of the action is owned, i.e. planned and implemented, by PwDs themselves. This core principle of transitioning the power into and keeping it in the hands of persons with disabilities - *Nothing about us without us* - and enabling of peer support in all directions (South-North-Global) is the special value added of the Partnership and its chosen programmatic approach.

Major part of international funding and disability development work is still implemented by organisations for disability vs. organisations of PwDs themselves. The Partnership programme approach for long term collaboration for building up and strengthening Southern DPOs to become strong rights-holders is exceptional and the Partnership programme plays an important role in strengthening the disability movement in the programme countries. With regards to persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities the programme partner organizations are organizations of PwDs and their parents.

In terms of the approach of the Programme, in addition to sharing common overall objectives and interests, each disability group has their own substantially different disability specific barriers. These varying key challenges of persons with different disabilities form the base for the diverse development cooperation strategies and prioritizations of the Finnish member organisations. The special value added in the Programme is generated by transmitting the expertise of the Finnish DPOs and the peer to peer support of the Finnish organisations to their sister organisations in the programme countries.

The Programme has five expected outcomes:

- Programme Outcome 1: Able organizations: Southern partner organizations have increased organizational capacity
- Outcome 2: Advocacy for inclusion: Disability inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities are promoted in cooperation between DPOs, decision-makers and stakeholders
- Outcome 3: Access to formal and non-formal education by children, youth and adults with disabilities has improved
- Outcome 4: Persons with disabilities are better able to financially support themselves and their families
- Crosscutting Outcome 5: Gender Equality: Programme partner organizations promote the full and equal participation of women and girls with disabilities in all their operations. In addition, gender equality is mainstreamed in all programme interventions.

In 2019, with the MFA funding the Partnership is implementing 16 projects. Out of these, two are regional projects in the Balkans and Central Asia respectively, and the remaining 14 are implemented in following countries:

- Africa: Ethiopia (4 projects), Kenya (1 project), Malawi (1 project), Zambia (1 project), Tanzania/Zanzibar (1 project), Uganda (1 project)
- Asia: Cambodia (1 project)
- Europe: Albania (1 project), Kosovo (1 project)
- South America: Bolivia (2 projects)

The programme partner DPOs are in many cases long-term partner organizations of the Finnish member organizations. The projects are planned, implemented and reported by the partner organizations and based on the strategic priorities identified by the partner organizations. Persons with disabilities are often left behind in the development interventions and they are discriminated against due to negative attitudes and perceptions. They have also had less access to education than the population on average in the programme countries. DPOs have thus had less opportunities to build their capacity and participate in the national and local development processes. The support for the programme partners therefore is long term and is gradually building sustainable change in the society. In order to fully address the rights of persons with disabilities, the programme approach includes both working directly with the rights-holders at the grassroots level and with duty-bearers.

## 1.2. Results of previous evaluations

Disability Partnership Finland was evaluated as part of the MFA evaluation of the programme-based support instrument in 2016 (so-called CSO 3 evaluation). The evaluation concluded that Disability Partnership Finland has clearly found its own niche as an actor in disability issues and comparative advantage of being an organisation of people with disabilities.

Partnership, however, felt that the evaluation lacked understanding of the structure of the Partnership (implementation by seven independent Finnish DPOs), and the diversity of different disability groups and their DPOs. It also lacked a comprehensive analysis of the added value of the programme.

External project evaluations have been conducted in Ethiopia, Zambia and Tanzania. Furthermore, a study on the support to income-generating activities of persons with disabilities in Ethiopia was conducted in 2018 as a follow up action to the CSO 3 evaluation.

## 2. Purpose and objectives of the evaluation

The main purpose of this evaluation is to support the planning of the next programme phase 2022-2025. The evaluation is expected to identify lessons learned and best practices and provide recommendations that the member organizations, partner organizations and the Secretariat can use in the development of the next programme.

The objectives of this evaluation are:

- To assess the chosen programmatic approach and its added value;
- To assess how the chosen programmatic approach creates results; and
- To give recommendations to the development of results-based management and related tools.

## 3. Scope of the evaluation

The evaluation will cover the period of 2016-2019, covering the funding period 2016-2017 and the first half of the current funding period. The Programme was initially designed for the years 2016-2021 and no significant changes in the programme objectives have taken place. However, the collaboration with several partner DPOs has started already much earlier, even before the Programme was formed, and the results are usually achieved through long-term processes.

The evaluation covers the projects implemented during the period. The evaluation should look not only at the results of individual projects but draw conclusions at the programme level including the overall collaboration of member organisations with their partners. The evaluation will involve the participation of the member organizations, programme partner organizations and the Secretariat as well as the stakeholders to be identified. The evaluation should include a visit to at least one programme country.

In addition to the projects, the evaluation should look at the expert services on disability mainstreaming as well as advocacy and communications work of the Partnership as means of implementing the programme.

The evaluation will be guided by the Evaluation manual by the MFA (based on the OECD DAC and EU criteria) on parts relevant for CSO projects<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://eoppiva.zapter.io/evaluationmanual2018>

#### 4. Issues to be addressed and evaluation questions

The evaluation criteria to be applied and the key evaluation questions are presented below:

##### Relevance

1. How has the chosen programmatic approach, based on collaboration between the members and their Southern partners, strengthened the partner organizations in the programme countries?
2. How has the increased capacity of the partner organizations contributed to the CRPD implementation and disability sector at national level?

##### Effectiveness

3. How has the chosen programmatic approach evolved during the period under evaluation? How can the chosen programmatic approach be developed further?
4. Do the Partnership approach and structure ensure the achievement of results?
5. Does the results framework enable the monitoring and achievement of results? How could the results framework be improved?
6. What is the added value of the programme for the member organizations in Finland and for the partner organizations in the Global South?

#### 5. Methodology

The evaluation team is expected to use its professional skills and experience in defining the most relevant approach and methodology for the evaluation. Proposed methodology for the evaluation should be comprehensive and innovative to ensure a broad view of the Partnership work, including qualitative and quantitative data. The evaluation is expected to be conducted in a participatory manner in constant dialogue with participants.

Evaluation should include at least one field visit. Country/countries will be chosen together with the selected evaluation team.

As basis the methodology is recommended to include the following elements:

- Desk review and analysis of documents

Key documents from the Partnership include (some of the documents are in Finnish):

- Programme document 2016-2021 and its revisions
  - Programme and project annual reports
  - Project plans
  - Programme management tools
- Other key documents
- Relevant guidelines and other key documents from the MFA

- Interviews, self-evaluations, workshops etc. participatory methods

- Representatives of the member organizations and the Secretariat
- Representatives of the partner organizations
- Rights-holders
- Interviews with relevant stakeholders including
  - MFA representatives
  - Other key stakeholders in Finland and in partner countries
- Field trip

## 6. The evaluation process and time schedule

Disability Partnership Finland will select the evaluators based on their proposals. These proposals, including a work plan with the suggested evaluation criteria, budget and the CVs of the evaluators should be submitted by 31 January 2020 by e-mail to [anja.malm@disability.fi](mailto:anja.malm@disability.fi), with the title “Disability Partnership Finland programme evaluation”.

Any questions related to the assignment should be sent to [marja.suomela@disability.fi](mailto:marja.suomela@disability.fi) by 7.1.2019. They will be answered by 10.1.2019.

Tentative schedule for the evaluation:

Activities	Date
Deadline for submitting proposals	End of January 2010
Contracting of evaluators	February 2020
Kick-off meeting in Helsinki	March 2020
Inception report	April 2020
Inception meeting	April 2020
Interviews and possible field visit	April-May 2020
Presentation of initial findings	June 2020
Draft Report	August 2020
Presentation and discussion on the report	August 2020
Final Report	September 2020

## 7. Reporting

The evaluation team is requested to submit the following deliverables in English:

1. Inception report: On the basis of the desk study, the evaluators shall present an inception report. The inception consists of the initial findings of the desk study, an evaluation matrix with the focused evaluation questions, a detailed and updated work plan and elaboration of methodology. The inception phase may also include interviews.
2. Presentation on the initial findings: On the basis of the desk study, the interviews and the field work, the evaluators shall present the initial findings.
3. Draft final report for comments

4. Final report: A maximum of 30 pages long report (excluding summary of max. 3 pages and annexes)

Each deliverable is subjected to specific approval. The evaluation team is able to move to the next phase only after receiving a written statement of acceptance by the Partnership. The reporting schedule is included in the contract.

## **8. Quality assurance**

The evaluation proposal must specify the process, methodology, tools and resources for quality assurance of the evaluation process.

## **9. Expertise required**

The evaluation will be conducted preferably by an evaluation team, which consists of a Finnish and an international member. Required expertise and qualifications are:

- a good understanding of promoting disability rights, the principle of persons with disabilities' own involvement (*Nothing about us without us*) and the specific needs of different disability groups
- a good understanding of development cooperation of civil society organizations and their role in Finland's development cooperation
- a good understanding of the human rights-based approach to development
- solid experience in conducting evaluations in the development cooperation field and preferably programme evaluations of civil society organisations, including use of various qualitative and participatory evaluation methods
- excellent skills in English and adequate skills in Finnish of one of the team members as part of the programme documentation is in Finnish
- lived experience of disability is considered an advantage.

## **10. Budget**

The total available budget for the evaluation (including VAT) is 29 189 €.

## **11. Mandate**

The evaluation team is entitled and expected to discuss matters relevant to this evaluation with pertinent persons and organizations. However, it is not authorized to make any commitments on behalf of Disability Partnership Finland