



International Disability and Development Consortium

Annual Report 2019/2020

25 years of promoting inclusive development

Cover picture

Winning Picture of IDDC 2020 Photo Contest
'Together for Inclusion!'

Photographer: Mona Jouni, Lebanon

Location: Lebanon

For three years after his displacement from Syria, Malik had been trying to make himself a new home in an informal settlement in the outskirts of Beirut.

Malik had a very rare condition called Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. Because he had missed many years of schooling due to his disability, Malik was not able to attend a formal school. Instead, he attended a non-formal education center, which host several hundred out-of-school Lebanese and Syrian children who have missed many years of schooling just like Malik.

In this photo, Malik and his classmates were invited to a classical music concert. He was called on stage to play the piano, which he did, for the very first time. This is the smile that Malik was always giving to those around him, the smile that truly encompassed his heart.

Malik passed away earlier in 2019 due to his health condition.

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Foreword by the Chair



I hope that many people from both the disability movement and the wider international cooperation community will be reading this report. If you are, I hope you enjoy it, but also that it strikes you, as it has me, just how much collaboration and cooperation goes on under the IDDC umbrella.

Personally, I'm involved in many network organisations, and am a strong believer in the power of working together. And maybe I would say this, having been on the board for around six years and then chair for the last three. But I really do feel the spirit of

partnership is lived and breathed in IDDC, that we have a strong sense of a common mission and purpose and that for many staff working for IDDC members, the question "why wouldn't we do this with others in partnership?" is just a natural part of their daily working life, as it is in mine.

I think my personal highlight of the year, which is perhaps a bit of a subtext throughout the details of the report below, is the growing strategic partnership with the International Disability Alliance. For IDDC members, including those who themselves are Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, working in collaboration, as allies, with the disability movement is a central pillar of our work. It is truly heartening to see this partnership go from strength to strength in support of our joint mission to encourage, support and, where necessary, challenge others to deliver a more inclusive World, in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

As I write this, we are all facing a global health crisis. While it is important to note that in many of the countries where IDDC members work, living with lethal and debilitating disease outbreaks is an all too common part of reality; the scope and scale of Covid-19, even at these early stages, is a reminder of how connected the world now is. It is already clear that, as with all aspects of life, there is a specific risk of exclusion of people with disabilities both from direct COVID-19 related health programmes and from associated social, economic and other responses by government, multilaterals and civil society. Through a concerted and collaborative campaign, IDDC and IDA are calling on all governments and international cooperation actors to ensure people with disabilities are included in COVID-19 response and recovery policies and programmes and specifically that health care messages and services are truly universal and accessible, in line with governments' commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals and the CRPD. We will continue working to gather the evidence, experiences and stories of people with disabilities around the world as the crisis continues, and to ensure their voices are heard.

As an optimist, I also hope that COVID-19 proves to others what those of us working together in the international cooperation and development sector already know. That we are all connected, that there is more we have in common, than that which divides us and that only by working together can we solve the global problems of inequality, injustice and inequity which are all too often felt most strongly, by persons with disabilities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dominic Haslam".

Dominic Haslam

Chair

International Disability and Development Consortium

About the International Disability and Development Consortium

The International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) is a network of 31 civil society organisations and 5 individual members, active in more than 150 countries around the world, coming together around a common objective: promoting inclusive international development and humanitarian action with a special focus on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights by all people with disabilities.

IDDC in 2019/2020, we are:

36

Members

6

Task Groups

2

Projects

A broad consortium

Our membership includes organisations representative of persons with disabilities (DPOs), non-governmental development organisations, national networks, and international member-based networks. In this diversity, we find our strength.

Member-driven

Our activities are defined and run by members through thematic task groups. Partnership is at the heart of what we do and, as well as dynamic internal collaborations. We have built up a trustworthy reputation among disability organisations, donors and experts, many of which are close partners.

3 objectives for a common purpose

Through our actions and activities, guided by our core values and the principles of both the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we aim at promoting inclusive development internationally, with a special focus on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights by all persons with disabilities living in economically poor communities in lower and middle-income countries.

To achieve this purpose, we:

- 1. Promote** the inclusion of the disability dimension, as well as appropriate disability-specific approaches, in all development policies and practices.
- 2. Improve** the practice of member organisations by collaborating and sharing experience about policies and practices.
- 3. Support** the exchange of information and knowledge about inclusive development, especially between people and organisations in economically poorer countries, by the wide distribution of information.

Our values

IDDC is committed to 4 key values which uphold inclusive ways of working, both internally and in all its development activities, seek the participation of all members and both encourage and respect diversity.



About Inclusive Development

Promoting inclusive international development is at the heart of what we do, but what do we mean exactly by inclusive development?

- **Equity and equality, with no discrimination**
- **Leaving no one behind because** human rights are universal and apply to all.
- **Empowerment of persons with disabilities**, enabling them to speak up for themselves at every level, within their family, their community, their country, or at an international level.
- **Awareness-raising and capacity-building among authorities, civil society and the population** in general. Inclusive development cannot be achieved without the participation and engagement of everyone in the **community**.
- **Technical cooperation between donor and partner countries:** financial aid won't do much without **sharing experience, expertise and good practices**.
- **Coordination with all stakeholders** to ensure that development aid does not create undue barriers or finance inaccessible or discriminatory projects.

Highlights May 2019 / May 2020



9 May 2019, Berlin – Germany.
IDDC Workshop “Realising the global commitment to Leaving No One Behind - Ensuring that persons with disabilities and other marginalised groups are included in development cooperation”

The workshop gathered representatives from governments, academia and civil society to find practical suggestions on how to implement the principle of Leaving No One Behind in development cooperation. Discussions focused on health, education, employment and global partnership.

As a result of the workshop, IDDC adopted recommendations to make the Leave No One Behind principle a reality for persons with disabilities.

The [recommendations](#) were officially presented to German parliamentarian Ottmar Von Holtz and government official Cornelia Henriksson, and disseminated at high-level UN events.



13 June 2019, New York – United States.
Side event on Community-Based Inclusive Development at the 12th Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Conference of States Parties to the CRPD is the main annual event bringing together governments, UN organisations and civil society to review progress and consider any matter related to the implementation of the Convention.

The side event looked at how Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) can facilitate the empowerment of persons with disabilities, their families and grassroots-level representative organisations of persons with disabilities. It shed light on the CBID approach, and provided space to share best practices from around the world.

In addition, IDDC worked closely with the International Disability Alliance on the Civil Society Forum, with members supporting the participation of DPO attendees from the Global South, and the Chair spoke on behalf of the network in the main plenary session.



**18 June 2019, Brussels – Belgium.
High-level panel on ‘Making visible the invisible’ at the European Development Days 2019**

Organised by the European Commission, the European Development Days (EDD) bring the development community together each year to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world’s most pressing challenges. EDD 2019’s overarching theme was “Addressing inequalities: building a world which leaves no one behind”.

‘Making visible the invisible’ discussed the main barriers for active and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in democracy and decision-making processes. Despite the different international frameworks, persons with disabilities are still one of the most discriminated-against groups, due to attitudinal barriers and lack of accessibility and inclusion. The session explored ways to develop a disability-inclusive perspective in the human-rights based approach in order to leave no one behind. The panel also addressed the multiple discrimination faced, for example, by women, migrants, ethnic minorities or LGBT with disabilities. The panel was organised together with Lumos, ONCE Foundation, the European Disability Forum and Bridging the Gap II.



**9-18 July 2019, New York– United States.
High-level Political Forum**

The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development and has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This year the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality,” was particularly relevant for IDDC’s work. 80 representatives of organisations of persons with disabilities and disability NGOs attended under the umbrella of the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities.

IDDC supported a variety of events, including the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities side event on “Reducing inequalities: a look at persons with disabilities,” the Global Campaign for Education – and the RESULTS Special event: “Unifying the Playing Field: Local and Global Movements to Advance the Right to Education”.

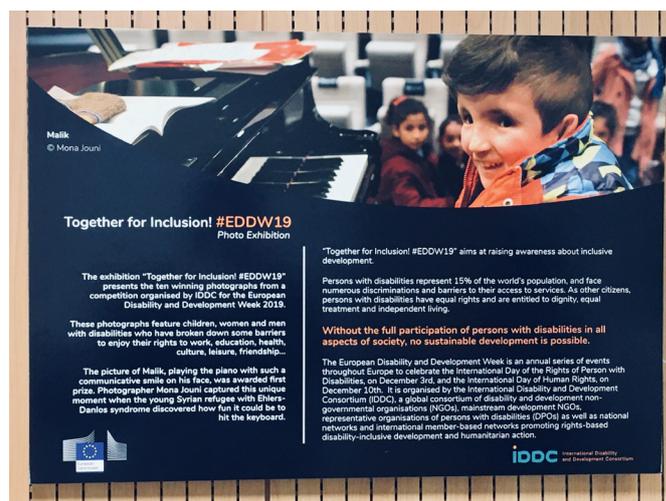




11-13 September 2019, Cali – Colombia. International Forum on Inclusion and Equity in Education held in Cali, Colombia

Organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Colombia and the City of Cali, the International forum on inclusion and equity in education - Every learner matters commemorated the 25th anniversary of the World Conference on Special Needs Education held in Salamanca. It explored challenges and strategies to overcome persistent barriers for vulnerable and marginalised groups and celebrated progress in moving towards education systems that leave no one behind, promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

IDDC attended the forum and successfully advocated to have explicit references on disability inclusive education included in the UNESCO's Cali commitment to equity and inclusion in education. The network also contributed to the Global Education Monitoring Report "Inclusion and education: All means all" which aims at assessing progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on education and its ten targets, as well as other related education targets in the SDG agenda. The Report will be released in June 2020.



2 December 2019, Brussels – Belgium. Opening of IDDC's 2nd Photo Exhibition "Together for Inclusion"

Following a contest launched in July 2019, the exhibition showcased 10 photographs of children, women, and men with disabilities in low- and middle- income countries who have broken barriers to enjoy their rights to work, education, health, culture, leisure, friendship, highlighting the importance of disability-inclusion. Without the full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society, no sustainable development is possible. The European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development hosted the exhibition in its headquarters.



3 December 2019, online. IDDC launches its new portal

To celebrate our 25th anniversary, the network launched a new logo and website to better reflect our dynamism and create a higher profile for our work.

#EDDW19

coordinated by
IDDC

3-10 December 2019, Europe.

European Disability and Development Week 2019

Celebrating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and the Human Rights Day, the European Disability and Development Week aims at raising awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities and the breadth and variety of disability inclusion in development, as well as fostering dialogue amongst policy-makers, civil society organisations and other stakeholders concerned with inclusive development.

Created by IDDC in 2016, the European Disability and Development Week gathers different events organised by IDDC members and its partners throughout Europe, communicated as part of a unique programme to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in developing countries. This year, the initiative hosted [12 events](#) taking place all over Europe.



12 December 2019, online.

Universal Health Coverage 'Keep the Promise Campaign'

The campaign reminds authorities that, to truly achieve universal health coverage, it is essential to identify the equity gaps with good quality and comparable data on the health status and access of persons with disabilities, and to invest in improving accessibility. While they represent at least one billion persons worldwide, persons with disabilities continue to experience many barriers to accessing health services, such as physical and financial barriers, sensory and communication barriers, stigma and discrimination, or lack of skills relating to disability inclusive practices among health staff.



Call to Action – Implementation of the Disability Inclusion marker

The Disability Movement, represented by the International Disability Alliance (IDA), the European Disability Forum (EDF) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), has long advocated for better disability-disaggregated data in development assistance and humanitarian action.

We therefore strongly welcome the introduction in June 2018 by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Working Party for Development Finance Statistics of an OECD DAC policy marker 'to track development finance in support of persons with disabilities' (hereafter referred to as the disability inclusion marker). This marker is a crucial contribution to improving the availability and quality of data collected on disability in relation to Overseas Development Assistance (ODA).

We note that, due to concerns over the overall number of markers and an upcoming review of the systems, the marker is voluntary, not mandatory. Current indications are that the marker will be applied by 9 DAC members in the 2018 reporting period. We encourage all DAC members to adopt the marker.

The inclusion of persons with disabilities is key to achieving Agenda 2030's ambition to eradicate poverty and leave no one behind. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) commits states to ensuring that international cooperation and humanitarian aid is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

The disability inclusion marker has a critical role in supporting this. By providing better data on whether interventions are disability inclusive the marker can support donors to understand the current state of play, set targets and take concrete steps towards implementing the CRPD and SDGs.

We call on DAC members to:

- Introduce and apply the disability inclusion policy marker in 2018/2019 ODA reporting and beyond;
- Promote elevating the marker from voluntary to mandatory status;
- Support the development of a handbook to guide the implementation of the marker. The handbook should align with the CRPD, promote the meaningful involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, and include an expectation that all interventions to assess whether they meet the criteria of 'doing no harm';
- Share lessons learnt from the implementation of the marker to support the collection of data that is accurate and comparable;
- Ensure that international development programmes are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities.

20 December 2019. Joint Call to Action – Implementation of the Disability Inclusion marker

IDDC together with the International Disability Alliance and the European Disability Forum joined forces to call on members of the Development Assistance Committee Working Party for Development Finance Statistics to introduce and apply the OECD DAC policy marker 'to track development finance in support of persons with disabilities' in overseas development assistance to improve the availability and quality of data collected on disability. The marker has been approved on a voluntary basis by the OECD DAC and several donor governments are now using it systematically.



15 January 2020, online. Webinar on General Comment No.7 of the UN CRPD

General comment no. 7 concerns the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD. Dr. Sam Kabue, a CRPD committee member from Kenya conducted the capacity-building webinar.



GLAD
NETWORK
GLOBAL ACTION
ON DISABILITY

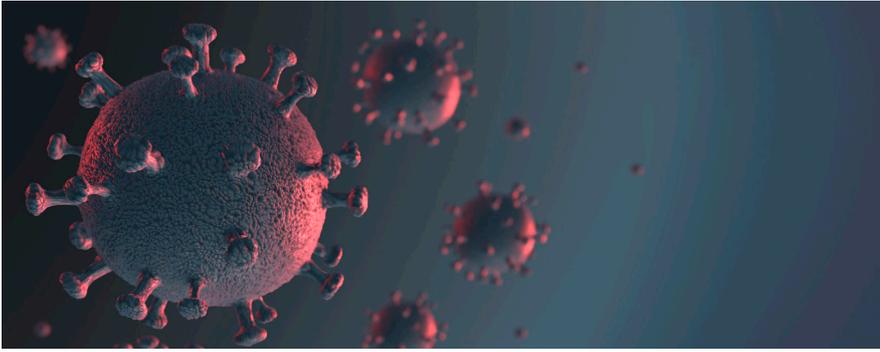
3-7 February 2020, Washington D.C. – United States. Participation in the Global Action on Disability Network meeting

The Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network is a coordination body of bilateral and multilateral donors and agencies, the private sector and foundations working to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development and humanitarian action. IDDC is an observer member of the GLAD network and is represented by a delegation at the main annual meeting and through ongoing participation in the inclusive education and humanitarian working groups. IDDC shared practical tools that can contribute to the GLAD network in strengthening the capacity of DPOs in the Global South, with a focus on climate change and its impacts on persons with disabilities and on a data advocacy toolkit for DPOs.



6 February and 5 March 2020, Brussels – Belgium. Meetings with EU Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič and EU Commissioner for International Partnerships Jutta Urpilainen

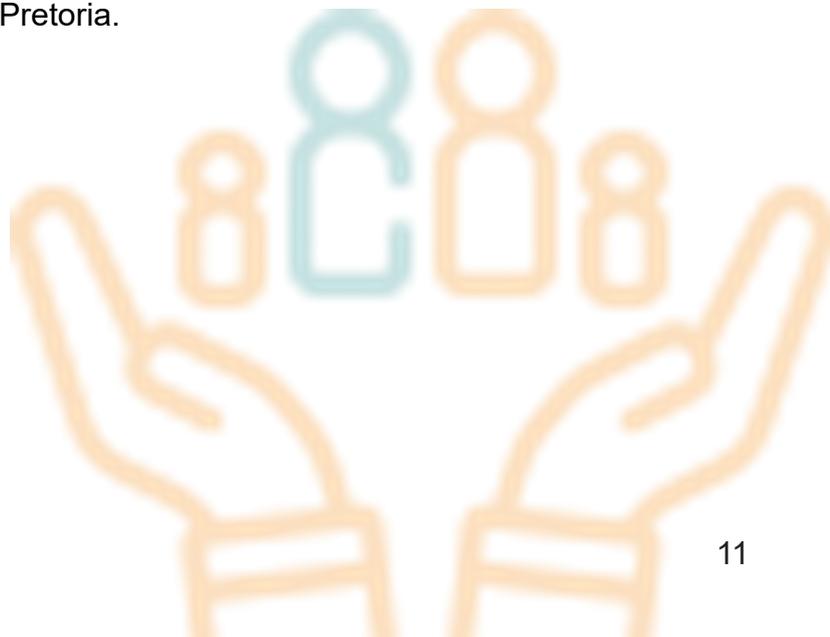
Following the investiture of the new European Commission in 2019, jointly with the European Disability Forum, we met with Commissioners in charge of international development and humanitarian action to raise awareness about inclusive development, and continue the work engaged with the previous European Commission. With Commissioner Lenarčič, we stressed the importance of ensuring humanitarian action that meaningfully includes persons with disabilities in all processes that concern them. With Commissioner Urpilainen, we emphasised our expectation for a strong EU leadership in promoting disability inclusive development, building on the progress achieved in the recent years.



Since March 2020. Protecting the rights of persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic

IDDC have jointly launched a campaign with the International Disability Alliance, to raise awareness of the situation faced by persons with disabilities and ensure all health, economic and other responses are inclusive. In addition, all of existing structures have responded within their areas of expertise to answer the challenges posed by the global, regional, national and local COVID-19 responses to the rights of persons with disabilities:

- A repository of resources jointly developed and regularly updated with the CORE Group Disability Inclusive Health Technical Advisory Group;
- A position paper on inclusive education highlighting the additional, specific challenges in times of school closures faced by children and youth with disabilities;
- A letter to the members of the EU Foreign Affairs Council (Development) calling for a disability-inclusive EU development cooperation response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Creation of the [COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor](#) with the International Disability Alliance, the European Network on Independent Living, Disability Rights International, the Validity Foundation – Mental Disability Advocacy Centre and the Disability Rights Unit, Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria.



Update on our projects

Bridging the Gap II



Bridging the Gap II (BtG-II) is a project funded by the European Union. The project aims at increasing the inclusion of persons with disabilities at both the international and country level through more inclusive and accessible public policies and services. Bridging the Gap-II is implemented by a consortium led by the International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies and composed of the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation, the Austrian

Development Agency, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, the European Disability Forum and IDDC. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland also contribute to the initiative.

Together with EDF, we are responsible for the development and the implementation of the Knowledge Management and Learning Component of the project. All BtG-II can be found on [our website](#) and here is a glimpse of the 2019/2020 outcomes:

- 14 webinar-based trainings
- 6 Learning Spaces focusing on disability mainstreaming in development cooperation, Inclusive Education, Access to health and the certification of disability and inclusive public procurement.
- A report on the “Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms: A preliminary Study of call for proposal in geographic and thematic instruments”.
- A pilot study by Bridging the Gap: “The unsteady path towards meaningful participation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in the implementation of the CRPD and SDGs”.
- A position paper on the Protection of the human rights of migrants with disabilities, as result of participation in the Global Disability Summit 2019.



This project is funded
by the European Union



BRIDGE CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative



The BRIDGE CRPD-SDG Training initiative is a unique capacity development initiative between the International Disability Alliance and IDDC, with the support from the Disability Rights Fund. Launched in 2015, the initiative aims at supporting DPO activists to develop an inclusive (all persons with disabilities) and comprehensive (all human rights) CRPD perspective on development, including the agenda 2030 and sustainable development goals (SDGs), and to reinforce their advocacy for inclusion and

realisation of right of persons of persons with disabilities.

BRIDGE CRPD-SDG was devised to respond to increasing demands for training on the implementation of the CRPD and inclusive development, and how these link to achieving Agenda 2030 and the SDGs. It is a coordinated training investment, drawing from the resources and experiences of the IDA and IDDC networks and their members.

2019 was a very intense and lively year for the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative with a specific focus on underrepresented groups and women with disabilities, regional and multi-countries cycles, translation of the Bridge material into other languages (including French, Portuguese, Arabic and Swahili) and the first module on the Article 11 of the CRPD - Situation of Risks and Humanitarian Emergencies. Key activities also included 3 regional cycles (MENA, West Africa and Asia), a national cycle in Tanzania, in Swahili and English, a training of trainers and a pilot module on the Article 11 of the CRPD.

In total, between January and December 2019, 374 people were reached from 51 countries. 49% of those were women with disabilities and 42% were from underrepresented groups; and 86% of the facilitation teams being persons with disabilities themselves (38 out of 44 facilitators).



Full members



Associate members

