

Bridging the Gap

**European commitment for the
inclusion of persons with disabilities
in development cooperation**



Bridging the Gap is a targeted thematic response to the requirement to make development cooperation accessible to and inclusive of persons with disabilities, which is an obligation for the European Union (EU) and Member States as parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and which can have a significant impact in improving the social inclusion and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities.

This project is an initiative funded by the EU under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), Thematic Programme “Global Public Goods and Challenges” and it is in line with the European Consensus on Development “Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future”.

About 1 billion persons, or 15% of the world's population, live with some form of disability, of whom 80% live in developing countries (World Health Organisation and World Bank, 2011)

The initiative consists of two components: “**Bridging the Gap I**” and **Bridging the Gap II**”. Both components of the project work in synergy aiming to contribute to the socio-economic inclusion, equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities in low and middle-income countries through more inclusive and accountable institutions and policies.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, THE SDGs AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) recognises the **contributions made by persons with disabilities** to the overall well-being and diversity of our communities and that the full enjoyment of human rights by persons with disabilities and their full participation will result in significant advances in the development of societies and the eradication of poverty.

(Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)

Persons with disabilities are referenced in various parts of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and specifically in relation to education, growth and employment, reducing inequality, accessibility of human settlements, as well as data collection and monitoring of the SDGs.

(SDGs Goal 4, 8, 10, 11, 17)

In line with the CRPD, **the EU and its Member States will take into account persons with disabilities in their development cooperation**. They will vigorously promote the rights of persons with disabilities and take stronger measures to ensure their full inclusion and participation in society.

(European Consensus on Development, 2017)

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Bridging the Gap I

Human rights indicators for the Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities in support of a disability-inclusive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Develop tools to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

Development of: human rights indicators for the CRPD; SDGs guidelines for policymakers; guidelines on data sources for populatig indicators; training material.

Five countries involved:

- Ethiopia
- Jordan
- Moldova
- Nepal
- Paraguay

Support inclusive public policies in low-and-middle-income countries and disability mainstreaming in international cooperation.

Empower Organisations of persons with disabilities in advocating for CRPD compliance.

Five countries involved:

- Burkina Faso
- Ecuador
- Ethiopia
- Paraguay
- Sudan

Bridging the Gap II

Inclusive policies and services for equal rights of persons with disabilities.

Sector Policies:

- Inclusive Education
- Universal Access to Healthcare
- Universal Access to Employment
- Livelihoods and Social Protection
- Data Generation and Use

Contacts

Bridging the Gap I

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Bridging the Gap II

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