

Project Document for Funding Window - UNDIS

Submitting UN Organization: Executive Office of the Secretary-General

Programme Manager:

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Programme Title:

Implementation of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy in Headquarters and in the Field

Programme Number:

(will be assigned)

Programme Costs:

UNPRPD FUND

Other:

TOTAL (USD): 749,000

Programme Location:

New York


Programme Duration:

Total duration (in months): 8 months
Expected Start date¹: 01 August 2020
Expected End date: 31 March 2021

Approval Date

8th June 2020

Signatures of Participating UN Organization

I.	Name of Representative	Ann de la Roche
	Signature	
	Name of UN Organization	Executive Office of the Secretary-General
	Date	

¹ The official start date of any approved project/programme occurs when funds are transferred by MPTF Office.

<p>List activities to be implemented</p> <p><i>Please provide extensive details on what these funds will cover</i></p>	<p>Overview</p> <p>In June 2019, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General launched the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) to make the United Nations an inclusive organization for all. The wide-ranging Strategy establishes the foundation for systemic and sustainable change on disability inclusion across all three pillars of the UN in the area of disability inclusion. It provides a comprehensive and practical road map for ensuring that the UN system is translating disability inclusion not just at the policy level, but at the programmatic and operational levels as well.</p> <p>The Strategy will play a key role in enabling the UN system to support Member States in their achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as well as a range of other development and humanitarian commitments. The implementation of the Strategy also provides the necessary foundation to contribute, both directly and indirectly, to the achievement of a disability-inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery, at entity as well as at country level.</p> <p>The unfolding health, humanitarian and development crisis as a result of COVID-19 is requiring UN entities and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to rapidly realign their programmatic responses to meet the enormous challenges imposed by the pandemic. This poses some constraints at a time when entities are undertaking their first year of reporting on the implementation of the Strategy and UNCTs are embarking on piloting of the UNCT Accountability Scorecard. However, a disability inclusive response to COVID-19 has the potential to put persons with disabilities at the core of UN system response and provide a concrete entry point to operationalize disability inclusion in a highly practical and comprehensive way.</p> <p>Funding under this project will support the piloting of the UNCT Accountability Scorecard on Disability Inclusion through a targeted roll-out in 10 countries (hereinafter referred to as ‘the targeted roll-out’) and establish the foundation for sustainable change in the UN’s work at country level. In addition, funding support for the Disability Team within the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG, from November 2020 till the end of this project, will also enable coordinated actions as well as technical support to UN entities and UNCTs to implement the Strategy, including in the COVID-19 response and recovery.</p> <p>The specific objectives of the project are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piloting the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy’s UNCT Accountability Scorecard on Disability Inclusion and share learnings among UNCT’s to support implementation of the Strategy. • Supporting disability inclusion in the ongoing COVID-19 response and recovery at UN entity and UNCT levels. • Developing key technical resources and providing technical assistance to UN entities and UNCTs for coordinated implementation of the Strategy. • Strengthening coordination, outreach and communication to support effective implementation of the Strategy at UN entity and UNCT levels. <p>Key Activities</p> <p>The following activities will be undertaken as part of the project:</p> <p>1) Piloting the UNCT Accountability Scorecard and Documenting Learnings</p> <p>Following the finalization and endorsement by the UN Sustainable Development Group, the UNDIS UNCT Accountability Scorecard has been disseminated to all UNCTs in June 2020 and will be piloted in 10 countries as part of a targeted roll-out in the first year.</p>
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Guatemala, Iraq, Malawi, Namibia, Benin, Vietnam, Nepal, Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands will take part in the roll-out of the UNCT Scorecard. Considering the multi-country role of the UNCT Fiji, the piloting in Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands will be coordinated by the RCO in Suva.

The 10 countries have been identified to represent all regions and diversity of contexts. The Scorecard takes into account the various dynamics and contexts in which the UN operates, including both in development and humanitarian settings. Among the current dynamics and risks, UNCTs are currently ensuring preparedness, mitigation or response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The piloting of the Scorecard therefore provides a unique entry point and opportunity to influence the COVID-19 response and recovery work of UNCTs inclusive of persons with disabilities.

The targeted roll-out of the Scorecard will be led by the EOSG Disability Team in close coordination with DCO.

The following activities will form part of the roll-out, which will be further tailored in discussion with the UN Country Teams:

- Undertaking Baseline Assessment and developing Action Plan

At the beginning of the project, the UNCTs will undertake a self-assessment of existing programmes and processes and institutional mechanisms on disability inclusion at UNCT level by completing the Scorecard. This assessment will provide a baseline on disability inclusion for the UNCTs and will serve as a basis for identification of existing work, gaps, resources and opportunities available. Following the completion of the baseline assessment, an action plan with clear timelines for implementation of the Scorecard will be developed, synergizing, where possible, with other systemic reform efforts on women and youth. The action plan will clearly allocate roles and responsibilities and identify existing and new mainstream as well as targeted actions and mechanisms for disability inclusion in programmes and operations, including those related to COVID-19 response and recovery.

- Establishing UNCT Disability Inclusion Coordination Mechanisms and Building Partnerships

For the UNDIS to be implemented meaningfully, a sustainable engagement on disability inclusion based on the creation of a dynamic disability coordination mechanism at UNCT level is necessary. UNCTs will use the roll-out process to establish a disability coordination mechanism/technical task group from different UN entities. The disability coordination mechanism/technical task group will include technical focal points and will be led by senior management to ensure leadership commitment.

Identification of key partners to strengthen disability inclusion in the work of the UNCT is also critical to the implementation of UNDIS. To facilitate this, UNCTs will organize consultations and strengthen collaboration and partnerships with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), ensuring involvement of women and girls with disabilities. Not only will this engagement inform actions by the UN system at country level, it will also enable the UNCT to tap a key resource to inform both programmatic and institutional plans and measures as well as to be held accountable by persons with disabilities.

- Capacity Building for Implementation

For the roll out of the Strategy and UNCT action plan, initial orientation and capacity building on the Strategy, CRPD, disability data, intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, meaningful participation and disability-inclusive development and implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework will be necessary. The targeted roll-out of the Scorecard will cover the aforementioned areas and

entail a number of capacity building activities, which will be tailored in discussion with the UNCTs.

- Documentation and Reporting

Documentation of learnings will be a key aspect of the roll-out process. Opportunities, gaps and challenges for the implementation of the Strategy and how they have been addressed will be analysed and documented by the EOSG Disability Team. These learnings will inform guidance and capacity building support for UNCTs as part of the wider implementation of the Strategy, and will also support the finalization of the technical guidance notes that have been developed to elaborate on the Scorecard indicators.

2) Supporting Disability Inclusion in the Ongoing COVID-19 Response and Recovery

As outlined by the Secretary-General in his policy brief 'A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-19', persons with disabilities will be one of the populations most impacted by the pandemic, disproportionately affected by the health, social and economic impacts of the crisis. UNDIS implementation has laid the foundation for coordinated efforts and disability-inclusive actions across the UN system that will ensure persons with disabilities are not left behind in the pandemic response and recovery.

An emergency time-bound working group on disability-inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery convened by the Senior Adviser on Policy to the Secretary-General was established following the launch of the Secretary-General's policy brief. The working group has set-up work streams to identify specific priorities and entry points in four core areas: funding; health response and recovery; socio-economic response and recovery; and humanitarian response and recovery. Nearly 30 UN entities as well as key civil society networks are part of the working group. The EOSG Disability Team supports the Senior Adviser on Policy to coordinate the working group's functioning.

The following activities have been prioritized by the working group as key to supporting disability-inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery:

- Ongoing coordination with COVID-19 funding mechanisms, including the UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) and Global Humanitarian Response Plan. The funding work stream along with the UNPRPD, is coordinating with the MPTF to ensure the systematic inclusion of persons with disabilities and collection and disaggregation of data by disability, as well as consideration of disability inclusion in the evaluation of proposals received by the fund.
- Developing practical tools and resources to assist entities, UNCTs and governments to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities, for example: checklists for country teams and partners to use during the process of conducting assessments, or to elaborate on key considerations to ensure funding and investment on COVID-19 response and recovery are inclusive of persons with disabilities. All tools and resources will be hosted on the UN COVID-19 portal's dedicated page on disability inclusion.
- Developing communication materials and resources to support greater understanding of the situation of persons with disabilities in relation to COVID-19, as well as ensuring greater access to information, including through the translation of key documents into multiple languages and accessible formats; producing key messages for UNCTs to support their communications on a disability-inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery; and establishing and maintaining a dedicated webpage on the UN COVID-19 portal.

- Undertaking research to build greater understanding of the situation of persons with disabilities, for example in terms of access to and availability of rehabilitation and assistive care and technology, or persons with disabilities in institutional settings. Information collected through this research will play an important role in informing the recovery phase of the pandemic.
- The EOSG Disability Team will also support the Senior Adviser on Policy to the Secretary-General to mainstream disability in key initiatives within the EOSG, related to the COVID-19 response and recovery.

3) Developing Key Technical Resources and Providing Technical Assistance to Entities and UNCTs for Coordinated Implementation of the Strategy

To ensure effective and coordinated implementation of the Strategy, the EOSG Disability Team, with members possessing technical expertise on disability inclusion, has been in place since August 2019. The Disability Team is based directly under the Senior Adviser of the Secretary-General on Policy and works across the UN System on coordinated implementation of the Strategy, across programmes and operations.

Timely technical assistance by the EOSG Disability Team to entity and UNCT focal points on practical aspects of implementation will build their confidence and maintain implementation momentum. Currently, the Strategy's Accountability Framework mandates a number of tools and resources to support its implementation. The development of these critical tools are coordinated by the EOSG Disability Team, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, for example inter-agency networks and relevant entities. All tools and resources developed for the implementation of the Strategy will be undertaken through a consultative process and with the involvement of OPDs.

In addition to managing and coordinating activities outlined above, other specific activities that will be undertaken include:

- Providing feedback on entity reports, and supporting UNCTs and entities to formulate, develop and implement action plans required to progress in their implementation of the Strategy contributing to the development of entity policies and procedures; and set-up of monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track disability inclusion, etc.
- Supporting entities to report on their second year of UNDIS implementation, building on the first year of reporting and the lessons-learned.
- Conducting targeted webinars and capacity building sessions to elaborate on the indicators of the Entity Accountability Framework and the UNCT Accountability Scorecard as required and requested by entities and UNCTs, particularly in relation to key areas that are unique to the Strategy.
- Providing on-demand technical assistance on key aspects of the Strategy (e.g. accessibility, reasonable accommodation, consultation with persons with disabilities) and engaging inter-agency mechanisms and networks to identify areas where greater understanding, knowledge or resources are required, for example, activating inter-agency networks to ensure processes are ownership-based.
- Finalizing the technical guidance notes of the UNCT Accountability Scorecard on Disability Inclusion: an initial zero draft version of the technical guidance notes has been developed to support the targeted roll-out. The notes will be refined and finalized based on UNCT feedback during the roll-out, for wider dissemination.
- Updating the existing technical guidance notes of the Entity Accountability Framework: comprehensive guidance notes were developed for entities and disseminated in advance of the first year of reporting. Based on feedback from

entities and lessons-learned, the EOSG Disability Team will review the guidance notes to include further detail and clarification, which will provide targeted guidance to entities.

- Finalizing and disseminating guidance on disability-inclusive procurement: While inter-agency guidance on procurement exists, it does not adequately address disability inclusion. The Procurement Network and EOSG Disability Team is currently collaborating to develop guidelines that will establish a consistent approach to disability-inclusive procurement, contributing to entities' ability to progress on this issue. Under this project, the EOSG Disability Team will work with the UN Procurement Network and entities for finalization and adoption of these guidelines.

4) Strengthening Coordination, Outreach and Communication to Support Effective Implementation of the Strategy at Entity and UNCT Levels

High-level leadership has played an important role in leveraging the momentum built since the Strategy's launch, spotlighting the importance of disability inclusion across the work of the UN and empowering staff at technical level. Regular communications and coordination are supporting entities to maintain their commitment to disability inclusion, identify priorities for action and learn from each other's progress.

As indicated above, the Secretary-General has been invited by Member States to submit a report during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly on progress towards implementation of the Strategy. In addition to mapping the progress and gaps on disability inclusion more broadly, the report, which is currently being prepared by the EOSG Disability Team, will also provide a foundation to assess where greater focus and support is required – generally, as well as in relation to the COVID-19 response and recovery. Reports submitted by entities, as well as the initial baseline assessments conducted by the UNCT roll-out countries, will feed into the report.

The following activities and products are planned to strengthen coordination, outreach and communication:

- Coordinating the UNDIS entity focal point network and the UNCT focal point group. The UNDIS entity focal point network, comprising more than 57 focal points, coordinates regularly online and holds meetings on a quarterly basis to discuss challenges and share good practice in relation to the Strategy's implementation. A UNCT focal point network will be established along similar lines to support the Scorecard roll-out.
- Supporting the Secretary-General and Deputy-Secretary-General's teams to ensure that field missions, high-level communications, as well as statements, speeches and reports include persons with disabilities. This ongoing work is crucial to mainstreaming disability inclusion across the work of the UN system.
- Outreach to Member States: Regular briefings ensure Member States have a clear picture on the status of implementation of the Strategy and greater understanding on the gaps and challenges faced by the UN system, as well as the opportunities presented by the Strategy.
- Developing communication products and guidelines: A common understanding of how to develop communications that are respectful and inclusive of persons with disabilities has to be strengthened within the UN system. The EOSG Disability Team is currently collaborating with the Department of Global Communications on development of guidelines on disability inclusive communications which will be rolled out under this project. Targeted communication products on the implementation of the Strategy and to publicize the Secretary-General's report

	<p>will also be produced to highlight the findings from the first report and to provide an update on the status of UNDIS implementation.</p> <p>Underscoring all activities above is meaningful consultation with persons with disabilities and their representative organizations. The EOSG Disability Team works closely with OPD and disability and development networks, including the International Disability Alliance and International Disability and Development Consortium, and regularly established connections between OPDs, entities and UNCTs. Accessibility is also an underlying principle of the Disability Team’s work in the implementation of the Strategy. Products and deliverables produced as part of the Strategy’s implementation are provided in multiple languages and accessible formats, including International Sign, captioning, ePUB and Easy-to-Read. The Strategy’s website, which will be further developed in the second year, is accessible for screen readers and hosts all accessible high-level public communications related to the Strategy.</p>
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PROGRAMME BUDGET

PROJECT BUDGET	
CATEGORIES	AMOUNT
1. Staff and other personnel cost	240,000
2. Supplies, Commodities, Materials	
3. Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture including Depreciation	
4. Contractual Services	123,000
5. Travel	
6. Transfers and Grants Counterparts	300,000
7. General Operating and Other Direct Costs	37,000
8. Indirect Support Costs	49,000
TOTAL	749,000