

TEMPLATE FOR UNPRPD GLOBAL PROJECT PROPOSALS

| **Title of Project: Understanding how to use an intersectional approach while addressing disability inclusion** |
| --- |
| **Duration (max. 36 months): 18 months** |
| **Total Budget: 99,510 USD** |
| **Participating UN Organizations: UN Women; UNICEF; UNFPA; UNDESA; OHCHR** |

# Executive Summary

UN Women, UN DESA, UNICEF, UNFPA and OHCHR along with a civil society advisory group comprising of CBM, IDA, WEI, WRC, CREA, Sightsavers, and WaterAid are working on joint project supported by the [United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fmptf.undp.org%2Ffactsheet%2Ffund%2FRPD00&data=02%7C01%7C%7Cd8e2408231b74d0d591d08d7146c5b7e%7C2bcd07449e18487d85c3c9a325220be8%7C0%7C0%7C637000327930349842&sdata=LBQjcj8b1d1PAYJkx0DlNrpnLsC1rA50hYHi63yCUxQ%3D&reserved=0). The project aims to develop a toolkit to provide practical ways to implement and integrate an intersectional approach to initiatives addressing the rights of persons with disabilities, including through tangible examples of how it can be done.  It is expected that the project will provide a space to address, including through consultations, the heterogeneity of persons with disabilities and range of organizations that represent different intersections and issues of persons with disabilities.

The toolkit aims to inform both UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and Government programming processes to address inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in their diversity at the intersection of factors such as age, sex, gender identity and expression, race, socio-economic status, ethnicity, among others in relation to: data collection; programme design, implementation and monitoring; for the rights of persons with disabilities in their diversity using an intersectional approach.  The toolkit will be developed in close consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, UN agencies, UNCTs, civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders. The toolkit will be informed by: (a) a desk review of existing resources and best practices including from UN entities, organizations of persons with disabilities, broader civil society, and academia, and (b) consultations and validation workshops to seek input including from a diverse range of organizations of persons with disabilities, UNCTs, UN agencies, through the process of developing the toolkit as well as to build consensus around the resulting toolkit.

# 1. Background and Rationale

## 1.1 Challenges to be addressed by the project

It is estimated that more than one billion people in the world experience some form of disability,and that the average prevalence rate in the female population 18 years and older is 19.2 percent, compared to 12 per cent for males.[[1]](#footnote-2) Additionally, eighty per cent of persons with disabilities live in developing countries.

People with disabilities are not a homogenous group. Beyond the multiple types of disabilities, the diversity of persons with disabilities includes those with multiple and intersecting identities, such as being gender minorities; from different ethnic, religious and racial backgrounds; refugee, stateless, migrant, asylum-seeking and internally displaced people; LGBTQI+ persons; people living with and affected by HIV; young and older people; single and widowed women, across all contexts. The consequences of the interaction of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are often considered to be separate and mutually exclusive forms of discrimination. However, the interaction of multiple identities and the resulting discrimination is highly contextual and varies across contexts. Existing evidence on intersectional discrimination indicates that as a consequence of multiple identities some persons with disabilities are pushed to the extreme margins and experience profound discriminations. For example:

* Persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, in particular, tend to be more vulnerable to harassment, abuse and other threats because their legal capacity is often neglected. [[2]](#footnote-3) This is also true for people with autism, deaf blindness and other underrepresented disabilities. The situation is often aggravated when additional factors, such as socio-economic condition or minority ethnic, religious or racial background come into play.
* Women and girls with disabilities face significant physical, financial, informational, and communications barriers to accessing health services, including sexual and reproductive health services, that are needed both because of their disability and their gender. Furthermore, because of stereotypes about discrimination, they may be viewed as asexual, not being capable of making decisions for themselves, or not being fit parents, they may not be offered needed sexual and reproductive services or may be denied the opportunity to have children through forced sterilization, forced contraception, and forced abortion.
* Children with disabilities are often not registered at birth because of stigma. Practices vary across countries, but there have been reports of 80 to 90 per cent of children with disabilities not having birth certificates.[[3]](#footnote-4) In the Global South, persons with disabilities are also excluded from obtaining Digital National ID because of the inaccessibility of the biometric systems. This is especially relevant with an increasing number of States turning to citizen registration and verification processes e.g. India.[[4]](#footnote-5)
* Data from six developing countries indicated that on average one in three children with disabilities of primary school age was out of school, compared with one in seven children without disabilities. In these same countries, the primary school completion rate was 56 per cent for children with disabilities and 73 per cent for children without disabilities.[[5]](#footnote-6)

The UN System, including UNCTs, and governments, often do not effectively address the rights of persons with disabilities in their programmes and policies. This happens for several reasons, linked to stigma and discrimination, a lack of understanding of the disability rights agenda in conjunction with other development agendas including feminist agendas, inadequate planning and budgeting to involve effective participation of persons with disabilities, including through their representative organizations, and an inadequacy of data collection mechanisms. This is further complicated by the continuance of policies and structures which perpetuate segregation and incapacity and lack intersectional approaches, and which sometimes are supported by local organizations of persons with disabilities e.g. sheltered workshops, segregated educational set ups, guardianship arrangements. At times, institutions are concerned about perceived costs of inclusion of persons with disabilities and the perceived lack of experts to guide these processes.

With a growing recognition that the failure to address various aspects of identity as well as structural and systemic barriers that inhibit participation can obscure or deny human rights protection due to all, it is crucial to design interventions and policies that effectively address not only discrimination based on disability but the situation of those affected by multiple forms of discrimination. There is a need to use an intersectional approach in: the development, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes; advocacy; intergovernmental processes; and data collection to identify effective ways to empower persons with disabilities in all their diversity, particularly within the context of the 2030 Agenda and its resolve to leave no one behind. This is particularly relevant in the work the UN System as it responds to the COVID-19 crisis, which disproportionately impacts the lives the persons with disabilities and is further exacerbated by other structural barriers such as patriarchy, racism, discrimination based on socio-economic status, among others.

There remains a gap in comprehensive understanding and tools to support the practical implementation of an intersectional approach that addresses discrimination based on disability and responds to multiple forms of discrimination, including based on age, sex, gender identity and expression, location, socio-economic status, race, and ethnicity experienced by persons with disabilities. This project hopes to respond to this unmet demand through the development of a practical toolkit, building on existing knowledge, experience and expertise, in consultation with diverse organizations of persons with disabilities, to support UNCTs, civil society and Member States in responding to this need and effectively reduce compounded and intersecting inequalities that persons with disabilities in their diversity face in society, including in all areas of private and public life.

## 1.2 Opportunities available to the project

There is increased recognition that to achieve the goals of the 2030 agenda, structural barriers across all economic, social, political, cultural urban and environmental domains must be addressed with accelerated implementation. With the 2030 Agenda’s emphasis to “leave no one behind”, the UN System’s approach now not only entails reaching the poorest of the poor, but also seeks to combat discrimination and rising inequalities within and among countries, and their root causes. Particularly within the context of the on-going UN System reform as well as the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy we have the opportunity to effectively work across the UN System along with civil society to address these barriers. In addition, there is an increased momentum in UN regional and national coordination mechanisms focused on the principles of LNOB, Human Rights and Gender Equality, to effectively adopt an approach to address systemic barriers.

Across the UN System and civil society there have been various initiatives to address intersectional discrimination, for example UNFPA’s global research study, Young Persons with Disabilities: Global Study on Ending Gender-based Violence and Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights; UNAIDS’ report on Disability and HIV; the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women’s special funding window specifically aiming to prevent and end violence against women and girls with disabilities; the International Civil Society Centre’s Leave No One Behind Partnership; as well as Humanity and Inclusion’s Making it Work initiative. However, there is still a gap in knowledge and resources on how to systematically utilize and integrate an intersectional approach to all efforts. In addition, there is the challenge of siloed approaches in addressing the issues of disability inclusion, gender, age, among other factors leads to the rights of marginalized communities being overlooked during the development and implementation of policies and programmes and intergovernmental processes.

The project hopes to leverage the knowledge, expertise and complementary and comparative advantages that partners bring to accelerate efforts to systematically address barriers that exclude the diversity of persons with disabilities. It is also hoped it will contribute to address inequality in outcomes by providing tools and sharing promising practices to reach those most marginalized.

# 2. Project Approach

## 2.1 Focus of the project – “What is the project about?”

Through a multi-stakeholder effort, UN Women, UNDESA, UNICEF, UNFPA and OHCHR will coordinate the development of a global toolkit to inform both UNCTs and Government programming processes to address disability inclusion at the intersection of factors such as age, sex, gender identity and expression, race, ethnicity, among others in relation to: data collection; programme design, implementation and monitoring; and advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities in their diversity using an intersectional approach. The toolkit will be developed in close consultation with a civil society advisory group[[6]](#footnote-7) as well as with organizations of persons with disabilities, UN entities, civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders.

The toolkit will be informed by: (a) a desk review of existing resources and best practices from UN entities, organizations of persons with disabilities, broader civil society, and academia (b) consultations and validation workshops to seek input including from a diverse range of organizations of persons with disabilities, UNCTs, UN agencies, through the process of developing the toolkit as well as to build consensus around the resulting toolkit. The toolkit intends to provide operational guidance with practical examples on implementing and integrating an intersectional approach in programme design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. The toolkit is intended to primarily support UN agencies and governments to design programmes and services with an intersectional approach and in doing so it will be a valuable resource for UN agencies involved in UNPRPD joint programmes and beyond to support governments to implement programmes that are inclusive and take into account the compounded and multi-dimensional nature of disability. It could also be a useful guide for DPOs and civil society in implementing an intersectional approach to disability inclusion in their advocacy and programming.

## 2.2 Theory of change of the intervention – “How will the project produce the stated impact?”

The project seeks to offer conceptual clarification and operational guidance on intersectional discrimination, with a particular focus on the disability inclusion. While the notion of intersectionality is present explicitly or implicitly both in the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the United Nations has not come up with a common approach on how to conceptualize it, and therefore little operational guidance has resulted for programming purposes.

Recognizing that efforts to address multiple forms of discrimination has been limited to two to three identities, for example, gender and disability inclusion; age, gender and disability inclusion, this project will map and build on existing UN agencies’ and civil society approaches to intersectionality and available knowledge and expertise. In consultation with organizations of persons with disabilities, the aim of the project is to come up with a practical toolkit which could serve as a reference for programming purposes and help UNCTs to properly frame the issue and engage more effectively in projects involving intersectional forms of discrimination.

The project will aim to translate international and regional standards as well as recommendations by the relevant human rights mechanisms, in order to influence the engagement of UN agencies and partner governments at country level in development programming where intersections between disability and other factors, including gender, will be informed by bottom/up inputs from networks and organizations of persons with disabilities, with a view of distilling knowledge and good practices from a span of field experiences and vice versa. In addition, the toolkit will contribute to supporting UNCTs in comprehensively addressing the principles of Leave No One Behind, Human Rights and Gender Equality through an implementing an intersectional approach to the UNDIS, and other country level scorecard exercises, including the gender scorecard.

# 3. Result chain of the Intervention

## Table 2. Expected impact

| **Impact** |
| --- |
| Enhanced capacity and coherence of UN agencies to support Governments, DPOs and other stakeholders to take an intersectional approach to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in all their diversity across the life course, including in line with the UNCRPD, CEDAW, UDHR, UNDIS and consistent with the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind. |

## Impact Indicators

| **Indicator\*** | **Start level**  (Beginning of the project reporting period) | **Target** | **End level**  (End of the project reporting period) | **Means of Verification** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Increased number of UNCTs integrating an intersectional approach in the implementation of UNDIS scorecard | Reporting on UNDIS has not yet taken place | N/A | N/A | SG report on system-wide progress report on the implementation of the UNDIS |

## Table 2. Variations in outcome indicators

*(Add a table for each outcome in the approved project document)*

| **Outcome 1** |
| --- |
| UN entity programmes increasingly employ an intersectional approach to disability inclusion |

## Outcome 1 Indicators

| **Indicator\*** | **Start level**  Baseline  (Beginning of the project reporting period) | **Target** | **Means of Verification** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Guidance on intersectionality is available for UN entities and UNCTs and other relevant stakeholders and partner governments | No common UN guidance | Guidance tool available | Finalized product included in UNPRPD UNCT programming guidance package |
| Global inter-agency coordination/meeting forum for inter-sectional issues | No forum exists | Inter-agency coordination space/meeting forum established | Meeting minutes |

## Outputs

| **Formulation** | **Tentative timeline** |
| --- | --- |
| * 1. Guidance toolkit on intersectional approaches to addressing disability inclusion | [XX/2020] |
| * 1. Practices/Case studies on disability inclusive programming using inter-sectional approach documented |  |
| * 1. ToRs for inter-agency forum developed |  |
| * 1. 2 meetings of inter-agency meeting forum for intersectional programming |  |
| * 1. Consolidated feedback from the field, including based on survey results |  |
| * 1. Develop 1 webinar on the toolkit for dissemination |  |
| * 1. Mapping of potential partners by region |  |
| * 1. Disseminate toolkit, including easy-to-read versions, through relevant global and regional inter-agency mechanisms and a diverse range of civil society networks |  |

# 4. Partnership-building potential

The UNPRPD provides an opportunity to work jointly, building on complementarity and leveraging the assets of each participating entity and organization as well as well as its partners. We are uniquely positioned through partnerships and multi-stakeholder mechanisms to maximize impact for long term sustainability.

At the global level, a civil society advisory group has been established to contribute to all aspects of the development and dissemination of the tool. The advisory group consists of the following 7 civil society organizations: International Disability Alliance, CBM, Women Enabled International, Women’s Refugee Commission, WaterAid, Sight Savers, and CREA. It is expected that the partnership will provide a space to address, including through consultations the heterogeneity of persons with disabilities and range of organizations that represent different types of intersectionality and issues of persons with disabilities. Their work and experiences will inform the desk review and tool. The outcome of the desk review will be reviewed through validation workshops and consultations with various stakeholders.

In addition, this project presents the opportunity to establish an inter-agency meeting forum to convene gender, disability, age, youth focal points from UN agencies on a periodical basis to not only inform the development of the guidelines but also provide a space to identify entry points for building more synergy and to support UNCTs.

# 5. Knowledge management and dissemination

The project hopes to leverage and build on existing knowledge addressing intersectional approaches to disability inclusion. The project will:

* Compile resources, promising practices, and learnings through the development of the toolkit in a report or web repository or community of practice;
* Develop 1 webinar on the toolkit to support dissemination
* Develop easy-to-read versions of the toolkit
* Disseminate the resulting toolkit through various inter-agency mechanisms, including Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, the Inter-agency Support Group on the CRPD, as well as the UNSDG.
* Disseminate the resulting toolkit through diverse range of civil society networks

# 6. Project management and monitoring arrangements

## Table 4. Implementation arrangements

| **Outcome number** | **UNPRPD Focal Point** | **Implementing agencies** | **Other partners** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** Guidance tool on intersectional approaches to addressing disability inclusion, | […] | UN Women; UNICEF; UNFPA; DESA; OHCHR | Women Enabled International; Women’s Refugee Commission; CBM; the International Disability Alliance; CREA; WaterAid; Sightsavers; and International Women’s Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific |

* Civil Society Advisory Group Meetings – UN Women is responsible for convening these meetings, circulating meetings
* Consultations with Civil Society Advisory Group – UN Women is responsible to circulating and consolidating meetings
* Inter-agency meetings – UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR and UNDESA will rotate the responsibility of convening
* Consultant – UN Women is responsible for administering budget for the international consultant. Their work will be reviewed, and guidance will be provided by the core UN agencies involved.

# 7. Risk Management

| ***Type of risk\****  ***(contextual, programmatic, institutional)*** | ***Risk*** | ***Likelihood***  ***(Low, Moderate, High)*** | ***Impact on result***  ***(Low, Moderate, High)*** | ***Risk Mitigation strategies*** | ***Responsible entity for Risk treatment*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Contextual*** | ***The guidance is developed without meaningfully engaging with civil society organizations rendering it prescriptive*** | ***Low*** | ***Moderate*** | ***Actively engage with civil society advisory group and their regional and national networks*** | ***UN Women; UNICEF; UNFPA; DESA; OHCHR*** |
| ***Contextual*** | ***Not getting enough participation in the consultation process from DPOs particularly those from underrepresented groups on account of the barriers they may face to participation in the process*** | ***Moderate*** | ***High*** | ***Ensuring various methods of communication by the consultant who is undertaking the study and consultations and ensuring materials regarding any calls are in plain language, easy read formats etc.*** | ***UN Women; UNICEF; UNFPA; DESA; OHCHR*** |
| ***Institutional*** | ***Duplication of efforts within the UN System and civil society*** | ***Moderate*** | ***Moderate*** | ***Actively engage with UN agencies and civil society advisory group and their regional as well as inter-agency networks such as the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)*** | ***UN Women; UNICEF; UNFPA; DESA; OHCHR*** |
| ***Institutional*** | ***Resistance to uptake of guidance by UNCTs*** | ***Low*** | ***Moderate*** | ***Actively engage with civil society advisory group and their regional as well as inter-agency networks such as the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and the UNDIS focal points network and DCO to disseminate the guidelines*** | ***UN Women; UNICEF; UNFPA; DESA; OHCHR*** |

# 8. Budget

*Please use the template below, based on the format approved by the UNDG Financial Policy Working Group, to provide overall budget information. Please also utilize the attached Excel spreadsheet to provide a budget breakdown by fund recipient (Sheet 1) and by outcome (Sheet 2).*

## Project Budget

| **Category** | **Item** | **Unit Cost** | **No units** | **Total cost** | **Request from UNPRPD Fund** | **UNPRPD POs cost-sharing** | **Other partners cost-sharing** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Staff and Personnel Costs** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Supplies, commodities and materials** | Designing and printing for communication material |  | 15,000 | 15,000 | 15,000 | […] | […] |
| **Equipment vehicles, furniture depreciation** | […] | […] | […] | […] | […] | […] | […] |
| **Contractual Services** | International Consultant to conduct desk review (90 days) | […] | […] | 30,000 | 30,000 | […] | […] |
| **Travel** | Travel for consultations/validations | […] | […] | 15,000 | […] | […] | […] |
| **Transfers and grants** | […] | […] | […] | […] | […] | […] | […] |
| **General Operating expenses** | Reasonable accommodation | […] | […] | 8,000 | 8,000 | […] | […] |
|  | Miscellaneous | […] | […] | 2,000 | 2,000 | […] | […] |
|  | Venues, food, for consultations/validation exercises/dissemination events | […] | […] | 23,000 | 23,000 | […] | […] |
| **Subtotal** |  |  |  | 93,000 | 93,000 |  |  |
| **Indirect costs (7%)** | Miscellaneous | […] | […] | 6,510 | 6,510 | […] | […] |
| **Total** | […] | […] | […] | **99,510** | **99,510** | […] | […] |

1. World Health Organization (WHO). 2011. *World Report on Disability.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. United Nations 2018 flagship report on disability and development: realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities Note by the Secretariat, A/73/220, August 2018, paragraph 42. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. United Nations 2018 flagship report on disability and development: realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities Note by the Secretariat, A/73/220, August 2018, paragraph 47. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. CRPD/C/IND/CO/1; para 45-46 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. United Nations 2018 flagship report on disability and development: realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities Note by the Secretariat, A/73/220, August 2018, paragraph 17. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. CBM, IDA, WEI, WRC, CREA, Sightsavers, and WaterAid [↑](#footnote-ref-7)