**Project proposal - Draft for submission to the MC**

| **Title:** UN joint programme to support countries design and implement disability inclusive response and recovery planning for COVID-19 |
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| **Duration:** 8 months |
| **Total Budget:** 1,896,549 USD |
| **Participating UN Organizations:** ILO, UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, UN Women, UNFPA, UNDESA, OHCHR |
| **Other Implementing Partners:** IDA and IDDC |

1. Background and rationale

*The global socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis continue to evolve. COVID-19 is more than a health crisis; it affects social structures and networks, livelihoods, economies, and efforts to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and an end to poverty. It will also have medium- and long-term effects for years to come. It is essential that short-term measures are undertaken with due consideration of the long-term effects.*

*This crisis is disproportionally affecting persons with disabilities, who are often invisible, excluded, and more at risk of feeling the shocks from weak health, basic services and social protection systems. The response to this crisis must, therefore, consider the pre-existing marginalisation, discrimination, exclusion, and inequalities of persons with disabilities to ensure that they are not even further left behind. Concerted effort is required to decrease the gap between persons with and without disabilities which has been exacerbated by this crisis.*

*The UNSG has made a commitment to respond to the socio-economic crisis of COVID-19. UNPRPD provides core support to its members and facilitates inter-agency collaboration and joint programming on disability inclusive development with a strong commitment to collaborating with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). Steps are being taken within the UN system to respond to the short- and long-term impacts of COVID-19, and UNPRPD and its partners have an opportunity to contribute to advancing a disability-inclusive collaborative response, particularly at the country level.*

*This initiative presents UNPRPD’s immediate approach to responding to the emerging challenges as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic using the UNPRPD mechanism. UNPRPD is uniquely placed to contribute to country level analysis through its country level programs and engagement with UNCTs to support government response and recovery to the COVID19 crisis from a disability rights perspective.*

*The existing wide networks at country level and experience working with UNCTs will allow UNPRPD to support country response and recovery as well as build a global program which brings together country level evidence and learning to inform COVID19 recovery, to support disability movement engagement in the response, their advocacy and accountability and to inform future crises of this nature.*

# Project approach

## Background

As a response to the existing crisis, UNPRPD is immediately reacting to and supporting existing programs to adapt and respond to the crisis. In addition, UNPRPD must be prepared to support countries in the near future to ensure that the rights and requirements of persons with disabilities are addressed in recovery strategies on an equal basis with others. The technical secretariat reached out to 27 countries[[1]](#footnote-1) in early March 2020 that have UNPRPD programs to better understand the priorities regarding persons with disabilities and COVID19 in their countries and the feasibility of completing existing planned programs and activities or whether these plans needed to change in order to contribute to more urgent COVID19 response and recovery in this changing context. From the 20 responding countries, eight requested a no cost extension[[2]](#footnote-2), seven requested to repurpose their existing activities to meet the COVID19 crisis[[3]](#footnote-3), and four requested additional funds to support COVID 19 related activities.

It was evident through the correspondence and consultations that countries require support to enable a disability inclusive COVID19 response and recovery at the country level. This applies to both UNPRPD countries with joint programs as well countries with UN presence more broadly. UNPRPD will harness and contribute to the analytical work and guidance developed by its members and use this to support UNCTs to adopt a disability rights perspective as they navigate the crisis. For a disability inclusive COVID19 response to succeed at country level, country-based activities must provide evidence, practice, and participation of persons with disabilities and OPDs to inform and influence governments’ responses.

Based on this, UNPRPD will respond to COVID19 in three ways:

1. Support selected countries to repurpose existing activities for COVID19
2. Support selected countries to conduct additional COVID19 related activities, both financially and through technical support
3. Harness the combined expertise of UNPRPD members at the global level to support country level responses and broader UN COVID19 response and recovery through technical support, evidence, learning and guidance (focus of this global initiative).

## Broad program approaches

### Supporting analysis and planning at the country level

Each UN entity will support a number of countries with country-specific guidance through a range of mechanisms including, joint analysis and planning; flexible, on-demand technical support; collection of evidence; and development of case studies to support learning. This will be coordinated between UNPRPD members through a technical working group to maximize synergies and reduce duplication.

Countries will also benefit from the development of global guidance by each UN entity as well as a coordinated learning series for UNCTs, governments, and other stakeholders to which each UN entity will contribute. Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations will be involved in the co-delivery of this learning series as well as being participants. Guidance, learning, and tools will also inform and support countries beyond the crisis, including future UNPRPD joint programs, and be used within UNPRPD country and regional capacity building initiatives.

Selected UNPRPD country programs will also receive targeted support to work with OPDs to undertake their own analysis and recommendations. This will provide UNCTs with valuable information to feed into country assessments and recovery planning, equip OPDs with evidence for their advocacy and in holding governments to account, and build the capacities of UNCTs in CRPD-compliant response and recovery for this and future crises. This analysis will align with and feed into broader country analysis and recovery planning procedures. It will also align with the UN’s Socio-Economic Framework for Recovery and inform the UN Human Rights Indicators on COVID19, which also seek joint analysis at the country level. UNPRPD-supported analysis on the priorities of persons with disabilities and the disproportionate impact of COVID19 on persons with disabilities will feed into UN programming processes at the country level, including the updating of Country Analysis and cooperative frameworks. OHCHR CRPD-SDG indicators will also be reviewed as a potential tool for analysis and used where relevant as complementary additional indicators in line with the guidance on UN Human Rights Indicators for COVID19.

### Leveraging critical expertise for catalytic change

In keeping with UNPRPD’s general role in the UN, this program will coordinate and leverage the comparative advantages of individual UN entities and other UNPRPD members to provide evidence, guidance and learning to inform broader UN COVID19 response and recovery initiatives. UN entities and members will work on specific thematic activities which include country analysis, evidence generation, and technical support, as well as the development and dissemination of broader guidance. Thematic entity-led work will be complementary, with each entity contributing based its own areas of expertise to a broader set of knowledge products, tools, resources and recommendations. The technical working group will facilitate regular collaboration and coordination between UN entities to maximize synergies, to reduce duplication, and to coordinate a combined UNPRPD learning series through its members and other external experts . Guidance and learning produced in this program will be used within response and recovery efforts and will strengthen preparedness for future health emergencies.

### Influencing and complementing other initiatives

The program will improve the outcomes for persons with disabilities in the COVID19 response and recovery by supporting country level activities as well as informing, shaping and complementing broader COVID19 initiatives.

For example, the program will provide evidence and guidance that can be used to influence implementation under the**UN COVID19 Response and Recovery Fund**’s three programmatic windows. Samples of how the program activities will influence these windows are provided below:

***Window 1: Enabling governments and communities to tackle the crisis*:** The program will produce, adapt, translate and disseminate guidance on disability inclusive health responses (WHO) and inclusive COVID19 response within humanitarian contexts (UNICEF), support the accessibility of information and data (UNDESA), and inform online and distance learning mechanisms which have been employed in the crisis (UNESCO).

***Window 2: Reduce social impact and promote economic response*:** The project will produce a rapid socio-economic baseline of the situation of persons with disabilities pre-COVID19 (UNDESA/ILO) to provide evidence of existing inequalities. The baseline will be complemented by country and global analysis of the adequacy and coverage of social protection responses for persons with disabilities and recommendations for strengthening disability inclusive social protection and support services (ILO/UNICEF).

***Window 3: Recover better together:*** The program will support UNDP to more comprehensively work with OPDs and plan inclusive recovery and strengthened preparedness for future health emergencies through country analysis samples and tools to inform Post-Disaster Needs Assessment processes (UNDP). Support in monitoring human rights of persons with disabilities will be provided (OHCHR), standards for accessible telehealth services will be developed (WHO), lessons from the impact of COVID19 on care homes will be generated (WHO) and gender and disability inclusive approaches and guidance disseminated for use in recovery (UNW and UNFPA).

The program will provide modelling and guidance to support disability Inclusive response and recovery plans. For example, by modelling both targeted activities and embedding disability rights perspectives in mainstream analysis and planning; modelling accessibility of information and services and providing accessibility guidance; modelling and supporting capacity of UNCTs to engage with OPDs; and establishing data mechanisms to support accountability and monitoring.

Analysis work, particularly at the country level, will complement the **IDA-IDDC Disability Rights Monitor** **Initiative**, which will monitor policy responses to COVID19.Additionally , the planned Country analysis and support through this programme will enable OPDs to work with UN entities and UNCTs to use their connections with governments, data and monitoring information to further elaborate, analyze and compile evidence into country profiles, advocacy materials, and reports etc.

### Modelling participation and a gender inclusive approach

The program will model and support the participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations through IDA (a funded member and member of the technical working group). UN entities will engage with OPDs through consultation, joint data collection and analysis, the provision of technical support, and support with advocacy and accountability efforts. OPDs will also work with UNCTs in selected countries to develop country profiles and case studies to support inclusive recovery and strengthened preparedness for future health emergencies. This participatory program model will build enduring relationships between UNCTs and OPDs, building the capacities of UNCTs and encouraging them to engage systematically with persons with disabilities in UN processes.

The program will also ensure a gender inclusive approach through both targeted and mainstreamed actions to ensure the inclusive of women and girls with disabilities across all activities. Gender-specific consultation, analysis and guidance will be developed with and for women with disabilities and will be led by UNW and UNFPA. This approach will also be applied to all tools, resources, and capacity building for the program.

1. Result chain of the intervention

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| --- |
| ***Expected Impact*** |
| ***Persons with disabilities rights and needs are taken into account within COVID 19 immediate response and benefit from inclusive recovery.*** |

| ***Outcome 1***  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***UNCTs have better understanding and capacity to develop and support a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19.*** |
| ***Output formulation*** | ***Implementing Agency***  |
| Coordinate and finalise production of 6 thematic briefs provision of on demand distant technical support to UNCTs | **ILO** |
| 6 global and regional technical meeting and follow up with UN Agencies social protection and disability specialists presenting on developed briefs and data and CRPD compliance social protection systems at recovery phase | **ILO** |
| Deliver four webinars on inclusive immediate and recovery responses to ensure persons with disabilities are not left behind (two through the planned PRPD joint webinars and two through UNDP internal network)  | **UNDP** |
| Develop checklist to ensure socio economic frameworks are inclusive of persons with disabilities  | **UNDP** |
| Develop a simple checklist on UNESCO's Guidelines “Learners for All: Guidelines on the inclusion of learners with disabilities in Open and Distance Learning”. | **UNESCO** |
| Repackage and adapt UNESCO’s ICCAR resources to the COVID-19 context | **UNESCO** |
| Deliver webinars on produced checklist and the adapted ICCAR at least 2 webinars through the PRPD planned webinar series | **UNESCO** |
| Develop checklist for monitoring Human Rights of persons with disabilities throughout recovery phase  | **OHCHR** |
| Deliver webinars presenting on developed checklist and CRPD compliance monitoring systems at recovery phase (Gov + HRIs) at least 2 as part of PRPD series | **OHCHR** |
| Develop checklist on inclusive gender-based violence protection measures throughout recovery phase  | **UNWOMEN** |
| Provide targeted support to UNCTs including UN women Offices developing responses to COVID-19 on gender responsive disability inclusion  | **UNWOMEN** |
| Knowledge Services - Webinars (at least 2) as part of PRPD series presenting on developed checklist and gender and disability response at recovery phase | **UNWOMEN** |
| Organizing at least 2 webinars as part of the PRPD series: 1) disability-inclusive strategic preparedness and response plants; 2) disability-inclusive telehealth and 3) strengthening and expanding the availability of quality rehabilitation services during the recovery phase. | **WHO** |
| Produce and disseminate standards on disability inclusive telehealth | **WHO** |
| System wide accessible page in UN enable on quantitative and qualitative data and analysis on COVID 19 and other relevant information on disability emerging from Govs and other stakeholders | **DESA** |
| 2 webinars on page for UNCTs  | **DESA** |
| Develop a checklist on SRHR inclusion in COVID-19 immediate response and recovery  | **UNFPA** |
| Deliver webinars presenting on SRHR in COVID response and recovery and on checklist at least 2 as part of PRPD series  | **UNFPA** |
| Adaptation of UNICEF guidance on Including Children with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action to the COVID-19 response | **UNICEF** |
| Demand- driven support on inclusion of persons with disabilities in COVID-19 response in humanitarian contexts, including delivery of webinars and other forms of remote support  | **UNICEF** |

| ***Outcome 2***  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **OPDs are supported to engage in planning, implementation and monitoring of a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19 emergency.** |
| ***Output formulation*** | ***Implementing Agency***  |
| Development of short guidance handouts on key issues related to social protection response and recovery in English, French, Spanish and international sign and easy to read | **ILO** |
| 5 Regional information sharing and advocacy support Webinars with OPDs across 8 months and follow up  | **ILO** |
| Support to national and regional OPDs to develop 4 position papers on inclusive social protection response and recovery  | **ILO** |
| Translation of Guidance Note into at least all 5 UN languages and accessible formats. | **UNDP** |
| Two webinars on inclusive immediate and recovery responses to ensure persons with disabilities are not left behind | **UNDP** |
| Translation and/or convert to accessible versions of above guidance produced as relevant | **UNESCO** |
| Translation and/or convert to accessible versions of the above as relevant  | **OHCHR** |
| Based on consultations with organizations of women with disabilities, develop ‘know your rights’/demand driven advocacy briefs (at least 2) in the context of the medium- and long-term impacts of COVID-19.  | **UNWOMEN** |
| Support to national and regional OPDs to develop position papers/lessons learned/checklist on preventing, reducing and mitigating the effects/impacts of violence. (at least 2) | **UNWOMEN** |
| Direct support to IDA and IDDC to contribute through technical inputs and facilitation of consultations with OPDs and civil Society.  | **UNWOMEN** |
| Translation and dissemination of WHO materials and documents on COVID-19 and Disability | **WHO** |
| Create a repository with all available translations in WHO webpage. | **WHO** |
| Key UN documents relevant to the COVID 19 crisis and disability translated to local languages and in accessible formats | **DESA** |
| Translation and/or convert to accessible versions of guidance produced as relevant  | **UNFPA** |
| Documentation of good practice and learning on engagement of OPDs in response to public health emergencies, including COVID-19, in humanitarian contexts | **UNICEF** |

| ***Outcome 3*** |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Evidence, analysis and programmatic guidance is generated to support countries to design and implement inclusive recovery plans.***  |
| ***Output formulation*** | ***Implementing Agency***  |
| Document social protection measures ( potential good practice ) taken by states to support persons with disabilities in response and recovery  | ***ILO*** |
| Document the impact of Covid-19 on persons with disabilities (at least 6 country )  | ***ILO*** |
| Develop an investment case for inclusive social protection and economic recovery towards Universal Social Protection for persons with disabilities  | ***ILO*** |
| Synthesis report on lessons learned from COVID 19 response and recovery (contributing to overall report) | **ILO** |
| "A Guidance Note, with key recommendations, to support coherent, effective, cost-efficient, evidence-informed, rights-based, and disability-inclusive responses to COVID-19 in the socio-economic response and recovery ensuring that persons with disabilities are not left behind and those furthest behind are reached first. | **UNDP**  |
| Two case studies on emerging good practices on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in government's response to COVID-19 and 2 country impact assessment of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities | **UNDP** |
| Preparing a policy brief on the lessons learned and key recommendations prepared and integrated into the combined report on the planning and delivery of the Open and Distance Learning for learners with disabilities by education policy makers, educators, local government, and media and information professionals during the emergencies, particularly the COVID-19 breakout. | **UNESCO** |
| Documenting 2 case studies on emerging good practice on inclusive digital learning to Covid-19 and 1 assessment impact of Covid 19 on persons with disabilities access to remote learning during the crises. | **UNESCO** |
| Conduct an impact assessment in at least 2 countries on persons with disabilities of COVID 19-response and recovery with recommendation to contribute to overall guidance  | **OHCHR** |
| Documenting 1-2 case studies on emerging good practice on monitoring Human Rights of persons with disabilities during the immediate response phase.  | **OHCHR** |
| Develop region specific evidence-based briefs on the situations of women and girls with disabilities/PWDs, through consultations, to support UNCTs develop inclusive response plans/strategies  | **UNWOMEN** |
| Documenting 1-2 case studies and communication products on emerging good practice on inclusive GBV protection measures during the immediate response phase and one country impact assessment on the situation of GBV towards women with disabilities. | **UNWOMEN** |
| Develop an online portal for COVID-19 related data that includes information on the proportion of deaths in care homes with focus on persons with disabilities. | **WHO** |
| Production of 1 case studies profiles on emerging good practices on inclusion of persons with disabilities in government's response to Covid-19 and impact assessment. | **WHO** |
| Produce a report on proportion of death in care homes across countries with focus on persons with disabilities | **WHO** |
| Socioeconomic baseline report on situation of persons with disabilities drawing on data from UN Flagship Report  | **DESA/ILO** |
| Document and write up 2 case studies on emerging good practice on inclusion of persons with disabilities in government's response to Covid-19 or impact assessment of Covid 19 on persons with disabilities | **UNFPA** |
| Compendium of good practices and guidance with key recommendations on SRHR inclusion in COVID-19 response and recovery | **UNFPA** |
| Delivery of a range of forums for promoting exchange of experience and learning between humanitarian and development actors on inclusion of persons with disabilities in public health emergencies, including COVID-19. Documentation and dissemination of relevant learning | **UNICEF** |
| Guidance note to support UNPRPD’s future country level funding rounds to ensure a disability inclusive response to and recovery from the COVID19 emergency. | **ALL** |

1. Risk Management Strategy

| ***Type of risk*** | ***Risk*** | ***Likelihood (L, M, H)*** | ***Impact on result*** | ***Mitigation strategies*** | ***Risk treatment owners*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Programmatic*** | ***Lack of coordination between agencies*** | ***L*** | ***Delays in results***  | ***Hiring of coordinator;******clear division of roles and tasks among implementing partners;******Creation of steering and technical committee;*** ***Regular meetings and continuous follow up.***  | ***PUNOs***  |
| ***Contextual*** | ***deterioration of situation in countries***  | ***L*** | ***Country assessments and identification of good practices is delayed*** |  ***Consultations and scoping is carried out before selecting countries;******Mix of country selected.*** | ***PUNOs*** |

1. Budget

*Attached excel file*

1. Management arrangements

To ensure effective and outcome-level coordination, planning, monitoring & evaluation, and reporting of project activities, a Coordination &Technical Committee (CTC) will be set-up. A coordinator for the project will be hired thru UNWOMEN and will support the CTC work. The CTC will meet on a biweekly basis depending on needs and will communicate regularly. The CTC will also lead on the development of the guidance document, compiling information and inputs received from implementing agencies.

| ***UNPRPD Focal Point*** | ***Implementing agencies*** |
| --- | --- |
| ***Stefan Tromel***  | **ILO** |
| ***Irmgarda Kasinskaite*** | **UNESCO** |
| ***Rosangela Berman Bieler***  | **UNICEF** |
| ***Facundo Chavez*** | **OHCHR** |
| ***Leyla Sharafi*** | **UNFPA** |
| ***Monjurul Kabir***  | **UN WOMEN** |
| ***Tenu Avafia***  | **UNDP** |
| ***Akiko Ito***  | **DESA** |
| ***Alarcos Cieza Moreno*** | **WHO** |
| ***Other Partners Focal points*** | **Other Partners** |
| ***Vladimir Cuk*** | **IDA** |
| ***Dominique Haslam***  | **IDDC** |

1. Countries contacted by survey include Armenia, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, India, Malawi, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Sudan, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uruguay, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Countries requesting a no cost extension include Bhutan, Cambodia, Namibia, Zambia, Nepal, Peru, and Republic of North Macedonia. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Countries repurposing include Armenia, Namibia, Republic of North Macedonia, Nepal; Bhutan, Zimbabwe, and Mexico. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)