

"Now the community is also beginning to understand that people with disabilities [do not] need hatred, kindness and contempt. Now the behaviour of the people in the community is more positive than before..." Statement from a disability self-help group member



EVALS DGs Insight # 15: Including persons with disabilities in planning, monitoring, and evaluation of the SDGs.

Purpose: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reasserts the protection of human rights of all people, embedded in its principles of "Inclusiveness" and "Leaving no one behind". Appropriate planning, monitoring, and evaluation of the [SDGs](#) should be responsive to the needs and realities of all populations. This Insight focuses on ensuring the inclusion of disability considerations in planning, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. It identifies good practices, frameworks, and tools to advance the responsiveness of the SDGs to persons with disabilities.

The Issue: Persons with disabilities¹ (PWD) constitute approximately 15 per cent of the global population² and, in the context of crises, there is evidence that this figure increases to between 18 and 30 per cent.³ Despite this fact, PWD continue to be invisible in the programme cycle, including monitoring and evaluation. Notwithstanding the progress made, PWD participation remains limited in the design of policies/programmes, which are still being designed for PWD, rather than with/by PWD. Also, the heterogeneity of PWD and how intersectionality influences vulnerability has received little attention.

The 2018 UN [Disability and Development Report](#) observes that "... persons with disabilities are not yet sufficiently included in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs" (p. 1). The 2030 Agenda explicitly calls for tracking and disaggregating data by disability status for 7 targets (out of 169) and 11 indicators (out of 231). Other targets and indicators also address persons with disabilities but indirectly (e.g., universal targets, reference to people in vulnerable situations, and those targeting discrimination). National capacity to comply with data disaggregation

requirements still faces some challenges to include quality disability questions in national data instruments (Washington Group on Disability Statistics, [2018](#), [2020](#)). Likewise, though the engagement of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) has improved, participation in decision-making is still limited.

Given the above, diverse frameworks and tools have been adopted by international organizations and national entities to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities in planning, monitoring and evaluation, as detailed below.

UN Instruments. The UN adopted the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) (CRPD) in 2006. The CRPD aims to mainstream disability issues in policies and programming as well as promote the human rights of persons with disabilities. The [United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy \(UNDIS\)](#), launched in 2019 provides practical guidance to ensure participation of persons with disabilities in planning, monitoring and evaluation, through indicators 2, [5](#), 9, 10, and 11 of the UN Country Teams accountability framework⁴ as indicated in the related [technical notes](#). A guidance on [integrating disability inclusion in evaluations](#) was also published by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG).

Other instruments developed and used by other UN agencies include the OHCHR [SDG-CRPD](#) resource package focused on specific SDG goals and articles of the CRPD. At the national level, efforts for homogenising indicators related to and disaggregated by disability have been made, most under the framework of the Washington Group on

¹ We define persons with disabilities according to Article 1 in the CRPD (2006) "Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others."

² WHO & World Bank (2011) [World Report on Disability](#).

³ Moreover, 46 per cent of people above 60 years old have a disability. The disaggregation for children, women and men, respectively, is 10 per cent, 20 per cent and 12.5 percent (IASC, 2019; United Nations, 2021).

⁴ Guidelines on indicators 2, 9, 10, and 11 are not yet available.

Disability Statistics,⁵ including the [ILO module on disabilities](#) in labour force surveys (targets 1.3.1, 8.5.1, and 8.5.2), the [WHO model disability survey](#)⁶ (multiple SDGs), and UNICEF Inclusive Education Module (SDG 4) and Child Functioning Module (SDG 3). The [UNESCO inclusive policy lab](#) also provides a collection of tools and experiences from disability inclusive [participatory data collection methodology](#), including [videos as data](#), for the design of policies at the local (city) level.

Other Instruments and Tools for disability inclusion in planning, monitoring and evaluation include the [Universal Design for Evaluation Checklist](#), which can be adapted for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee](#) guidelines for including persons with disabilities in humanitarian action with specific modules relevant to the SDGs such as education, health, livelihoods, food security and nutrition and water and sanitation.

*The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (The Movement)*⁷ has a vision and proposed action on disability action in order to "...address barriers to opportunity, access and participation faced by persons with disabilities, of all impairment categories. Further to the international humanitarian laws which exist to respect and protect persons with disabilities, within the Movement: i) National Societies: Promote prevention and disability-inclusive programming in their local context; ii) IFRC: Focuses on promoting social inclusion and combatting discrimination and violence in its coordination and direction of international assistance to National Societies following natural and man-made disasters in non-conflict situations to assist the most vulnerable;⁸ and iii) ICRC: [Vision 2030 on Disability](#) launched in 2020, which aims to transform the way ICRC addresses disability inclusion in humanitarian operations through a collective action across the organization and cooperation across the Movement. The Movement has also developed [a strategic framework on disability inclusion and a resolution \(Sydney, 2013\)](#). The ICRC's [AAP Framework](#) and associated [Self-Assessment tool](#), in which disability is mainstreamed, supports Delegations around the world to monitor and evaluate their practices of accountability to affected populations.

⁵ An important insight of the tools from the Washington Group is the opportunity to retrieve information of persons with disability 'in all their diversity', e.g., type of disability.

⁶ [Disability in the MDS](#).

⁷ Made up of three separate components: the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and 192 National Societies with its volunteer base.

Good Practices

Case 1: South Africa's national efforts for including disability considerations in programme planning and monitoring

The country project "[Accelerating the Implementation of the UNCRPD in South Africa](#)", started in 2013, pursued three complementary [outputs](#): i) the articulation of a CRPD compliant policy framework; ii) the development of an analytical framework for disability-sensitive budgeting; and iii) the strengthening of monitoring and evaluation capacity in the area of disability rights. Monitoring and evaluation capacities of government officials were strengthened through a Disability Rights Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. This framework is made of three pillars: i) monitoring statistical trends relevant to persons with disabilities [including disaggregation of targets and indicators of South Africa's National Development Plan 2030]; ii) monitoring government performance in advancing disability rights; and iii) getting feedback from persons with disabilities through participatory research" (UNCRPD, 2015). [A baseline of the profile of persons with disabilities](#) was undertaken using the Census 2011 Disability Monograph, to guide the design and monitoring of disability rights programmes.

Case 2: [Nepal Red Cross](#) "Empowered Persons with disabilities in an Inclusive Community (EPIC) project"



Figure 1. Self-help group in Tanahum district.

⁸ Through the use of a participatory video process and tool [INDABA](#), the IFRC has also carried out a participatory video baseline with Deaf Secondary Students for a First Aid Training Programme implemented by the Egyptian Red Crescent Society.

At the regional level, the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) has made the inclusion of persons with disabilities a reality within their projects/programmes. Efforts have been made towards implementing tools in the different phases of the project/programme planning and implementation, as can be seen in the “Empowered Persons with disabilities in an Inclusive Community (EPIC)” project, in partnership with the Danish Red Cross (DRC) and the Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC).

The first phase of the project, initiated in October 2015 after the 2015 earthquake, applied a community-based approach and mainstreamed gender equality and social inclusion into the design and implementation of all key project components. Main objectives were to: i) strengthen self-confidence and empower persons with disabilities; ii) increase meaningful participation of persons with disabilities to quality services; and iii) foster an enabling environment to allow persons with disabilities to fully exercise their rights. Thanks to its success, a second phase was granted from September 2019. The objectives of the project were later expanded to iv) building persons with disabilities’ resilience to disasters.⁹ The project is built around eight elements, shown in Figure 2, which contribute to the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

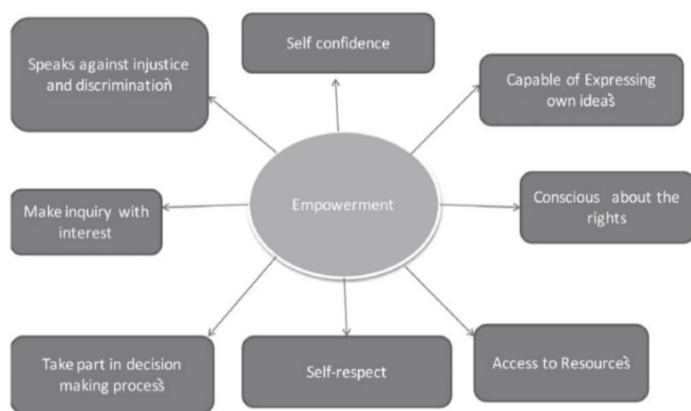


Figure 2: Project elements contributing to the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

The second phase of this project aims to reduce the barriers persons with disabilities currently face during emergency and non-emergency context in the Dordi Rural Municipality

of Lamjung District and Rishing Rural Municipality of Tanahun district. Key tools used to achieve this objective were: i) [Logframe with a detailed implementation plan](#); ii) [Checklist](#); iii) Self Help Groups (SHG);¹⁰ iv) [Needs assessment](#); v) Validation process;¹¹ and vi) Case Studies, Baseline, Mid-term and final evaluation, Lessons Learned Workshop.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the NRCS was able to continue the implementation and monitoring of their activities by adopting a hybrid onsite/remote approach which consisted of: telephone interviews, Facebook Messaging, Door to door awareness campaigns, monthly meetings with the SHGs and quarterly meetings with a wider community which included family members of persons with disabilities, community members, teachers, local government officials, self-help group of persons with disabilities, health service providers, Junior Red Cross, Ward Chairs, partners, among others.

Gaps and Challenges of the Revised Frameworks and Instruments

1. There is still work to be done on disability **participatory frameworks**, including in emergency situations such as COVID-19.
2. Efforts for collecting and using **data on disability** are still limited, as well as those analysing data through a disability/intersectional lens.
3. Existing disability-inclusive methods and tools through the programme cycle are usually not adapted for conducting **remote M&E**.
4. **Planning and resource allocation** to carry out disability inclusion interventions during development or emergency contexts is still limited.
5. Competing resource constraints to incorporate **disability-related information in data collection tools and processes** vis-à-vis other personal characteristics (e.g., gender, sex, age, etc.).
6. Disability is not homogeneous. Interventions do not always consider other factors of human diversity (**intersectionality**) that may contribute to vulnerability.
7. In programmes or organisations with no specifically identified **disability markers**, monitoring and evaluating the levels of disability inclusion is elusive.

⁹ Nepal Red Cross Society. Empowered Persons with disabilities in an inclusive community (EPIC) project description-1 September 2019 – 31 August 2021, p. 6.

¹⁰ Self-help groups are made up of persons with disabilities within a community, with a maximum of 20 members. These groups participate in monthly meetings with the NRCS and the community workers which allow for opportunities for feedback/exchange. The group is also active in fund

raising for the established revolving funds which have been set up by the project to provide a source of income for this community.

¹¹ A validation process was carried out with persons with disabilities, as well as with family members and the wider community through key informant interviews and focus group discussions before the beginning of the 2nd phase of the project. The findings from this validation process helped pave the way forward for the second phase of this project.

Recommendations:

1. "Persons with disabilities" should be clearly mentioned in projects' **targets and indicators**, instead of including them in elusive labels such as "vulnerable groups".
2. Enable, support and ensure **participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations**, including through provision of reasonable accommodations, in the entire project cycle management including the design of disability-inclusive M&E policies and frameworks.
3. **Mainstream organizations should build disability awareness and capacity** on disability inclusion targets and indicators in the SDG framework. This will allow for a more robust disability inclusive approach throughout the programme cycle.
4. For correct interpretation and the need to have clear indicators on accessibility which is a key component in inclusion, **accessibility** in monitoring and evaluation frameworks needs to be linked to the definition in CRPD (article 9), application of the principals of Universal Design. Wherever national standards are not available, it is recommended to apply the parameters outlined in [ISO 21542](#) standards (Building construction: Accessibility and Usability of the built environment).
5. Organisations should **link SDGs to humanitarian rights frameworks**, such as the International Humanitarian Law (IHL). This will ensure a comprehensive inclusion of persons with disabilities in both development and humanitarian programmes.

Did you know?

EVALS DGs is a global network formed to add value and learning to SDGs, made up of people with a shared interest in evaluation and sustainable development. EVALS DGs Guidance Group (GG) is an EVALS DGs sub-group focusing on strengthening capacity development for evaluation and the SDGs. The EVALS DGs 'Insights' are short, light and easy to digest notes presenting ideas and new information, and stimulate thinking to strengthen evaluation capacity.

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