



Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

BRIEFING PAPER 8 SEPTEMBER 2024



Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

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Imprint

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY is the umbrella organization of 36 Austrian non-governmental organizations in the fields of development cooperation, humanitarian aid, and global citizenship education. Our member organisations conduct 1,000 projects a year in over 120 countries around the world and contribute to a humane life for all on a healthy planet.

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Working Group Inclusion and Development

Vienna, September 2024 (the German version was published in November 2023)

Cover: Caritas Austria

Publisher

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Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities

in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

Forword

The consensus and focus paper *Persons with Disabilities in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid* published by the Platform Global Responsibility in 2012 provides its member organizations with a concrete working basis for inclusion and has already been implemented in many areas. Since then, calls for the inclusion of persons with disabilities have become louder, which was clearly expressed, for example, at the second *Global Disability Summit* in February 2022.

Inclusion has also become an increasingly important topic in recent years in the context of humanitarian aid and in view of the climate crisis. The *Inclusion and Development and Humanitarian Aid* working groups of Global Responsibility have therefore incorporated inclusion into these areas in this briefing paper.¹ Against this background, this briefing paper is the revised version of the 2012 focus paper, which originally focused solely on development cooperation.

¹ The first version was adopted in 2021.



Definitions and Explanations of Terms

Social Model of Disability and Human Rights-Based Approach

The so-called *social model* of disability assumes that a disability only arises in the interaction between individual impairment and social barriers. This means that people with various forms of impairment are only excluded from social participation and prevented from exercising their rights due to prejudice, discrimination and physical and communicative barriers. The answer to this social model is a human-rights based approach: because persons with disabilities have the same rights as all other people, barriers that prevent them from participating in society on an equal basis with others must be removed. In addition, the human-rights based model of disability states that the provisions of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRDP) apply to all persons with disabilities – and not only to those who are fit for mainstreaming.^{2, 3, 4}

Inclusion

Inclusion aims to ensure that all people in a society have the rights, abilities and opportunities to live together on an equal footing, to participate in social programmes and to make independent decisions about their lives.⁵

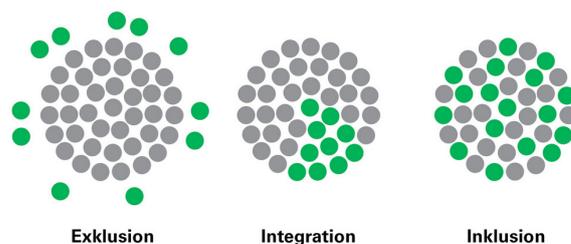


Illustration des Unterschieds zwischen Exklusion, Integration und Inklusion.
QUELLE: www.lebenshilfe.at

Intersectionality

Intersectionality means that people have several identity characteristics on the basis of which they may be exposed to discrimination or have specific experiences; for example, their gender identity, (presumed) origin and/or religion, sexual orientation, disability(ies), social status, age and others. These different characteristics and affiliations do not exist in isolation from each other, but overlap and influence each other:⁶ For example, an older, homosexual woman with disabilities and a migrant background experiences discrimination not only because of her disability, but also through the interaction of these characteristics.

It is essential to understand intersectionality as an approach so that an inclusive, transformative, gender-specific and power-sensitive framework can be created in development cooperation and humanitarian aid. To achieve this, it is necessary that representatives of different groups are involved in all phases.⁷ Further practical tips can be found in the section on intersectionality in this document (see p. 12).

² Oliver, Mike (2004): The Social Model in Action. In: Implementing the Social Model of Disability: Theory and Research. Colin Barnes and Geof Mercer, Leeds: The Disability Press.

³ Beckett, Angharad E.; Lawson, Anna (2021): The social and human rights models of disability: towards a complementarity thesis. The International Journal of Human Rights, 25:2, 348-379, DOI: 10.1080/13642987.2020.1783533

⁴ Cf. Theresia Degener (2016): Disability in a human rights context, Laws 5, 35, p. 7.

⁵ Lebenshilfe Austria (2020): What is inclusion? Retrieved from: <https://www.lebenshilfe.at/inklusion/mehr-zu-inklusion>, accessed on 28/08/2024

⁶ Nurey Özer (2016): Intersektionalität im Feld der Freiwilligendienste und der Bildungsarbeit (Intersectionality in the field of voluntary services and educational work). Retrieved from: https://www.quixkollektiv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/quix_web.pdf, accessed on 28/08/2024

⁷ Chaplin, Daniel; Lovell, Emma; Twigg, J. (2019): Intersectional approaches to vulnerability reduction and resilience-building. Retrieved from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.13404.03209>, accessed on 28/08/2024



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Basics

Facts and Figures on Persons with Disabilities in Partner Countries and in the Context of Humanitarian Disasters

- Around **16% of the world's population**, an estimated 1.3 billion people, lives with disabilities. They are the largest minority in the world. Their numbers are constantly increasing, partly due to rising life expectancy and the rise in chronic diseases.⁸ In crisis and conflict situations, these numbers tend to rise due to fighting, falling debris or limited access to medical care and essential services.
- It is estimated that **at least 41 million persons with disabilities worldwide are affected by crises**.⁹ The number of persons with disabilities in crises is usually higher, as many people acquire permanent disabilities due to physical and psychological trauma. For example, 36% of internally displaced people in Syria in 2021 were persons with disabilities. In Afghanistan, after decades of conflict, it is estimated that almost 80% of the adult population lives with a disability.¹⁰
- **In acute crises and disasters, persons with disabilities are exposed to higher risks to their well-being and survival:** When fighting breaks out or there is an earthquake, persons with disabilities are often unable to flee on their own, and their families may not have the strength or resources to help them. In disasters, the mortality rate of persons with disabilities is two to four times higher than that of people without disabilities.¹¹
- Worldwide, there are **more women and girls with disabilities** than men and boys: the incidence of disabilities is 19.2% for women compared to 14.22% for men.¹² At the same time, women with disabilities are less likely to be reached by development cooperation and humanitarian aid projects. A focus paper by UN Women outlines fundamental approaches to solutions.¹³
- According to the UN Development Programme, **80% of persons with disabilities live in count-**

8 WHO (2022): Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240063600>, accessed on 28/08/2024

9 UNDRR (2021): The world must act on unacceptable failures to protect persons with disabilities from disasters. Retrieved from: <https://www.undrr.org/report/2023-gobal-survey-report-on-persons-with-disabilities-and-disasters>, accessed on 29/08/2024

10 The New Humanitarian (2022), Give people with disabilities better protection in conflict and crises. Retrieved from: <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/opinion/2022/2/16/give-people-disabilities-better-protection-conflict-crises>, accessed on 28/08/2024

11 UN OCHA (2021): Safeguarding people with disability during humanitarian crises. Retrieved from: <https://2021.gho.unocha.org/global-trends/persons-disabilities>, accessed on 28/08/2024

12 WHO (2021): Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities. Disability and Health. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240063600>

13 UN Women (2017): Making the SDGs Count for Women and Girls with Disabilities. Retrieved from: <https://data.unwomen.org/publications/making-sdgs-count-women-and-girls-disabilities>, accessed on 28/08/2024



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ries of the Global South.¹⁴ Moreover, the group of persons with disabilities is by no means homogeneous. A disability can be a congenital, mental or physical health impairment. However, it can also be a chronic illness or occur as a result of an injury.¹⁵

- **Persons with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty** than people without disabilities. Reasons for this include physical, communication, and social barriers as well as discrimination, lack of inclusive education systems or limited access to education and employment, lack of inclusion in livelihood and other social programmes.¹⁶ The World Bank estimates that 20% of the world's poorest people are persons with disabilities, who are seen by their communities as the most disadvantaged.
- In countries of the **Global South, 80% to 90% of persons with disabilities of working age are unemployed**. In countries of the Global North, the figure is between 50% and 70%.¹⁷
- **Women and girls with disabilities are more affected by violence** than men with disabilities. During humanitarian disasters, the risk of experiencing violence continues to increase for women and girls with disabilities. Available data¹⁸ also shows that, compared to men without disabilities, women with disabilities are ...
 - ... three times more likely to lack adequate access to medical care,
 - ... three times more likely not to be able to read and write,
 - ... and twice as often unemployed.¹⁹
- **Children with disabilities are 25% less likely to attend an early childhood facility, 49% more likely to have never attended school**, 47% more likely to not attend primary school, 47% more likely to not attend lower secondary school and 27% more likely to not attend upper secondary school.²⁰ More than a quarter of persons with disabilities stated that schools are structurally inaccessible. 54% can read and write compared to 77% of people without disabilities.²¹

14 ibid

15 see www.uno-fluechtlingshilfe.de, accessed on 28/08/2024

16 DESA (2018): Disability and Development Report - Realising the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with Persons with Disabilities, p. 34. Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/10/UN-flagship-report-on-disability-and-development.pdf>, accessed on 29/08/2024

17 DESA (n.d.): Factsheet: Disability and Employment. Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/resources/factsheet-on-persons-with-disabilities/disability-and-employment.html>, accessed on 29/08/2024

18 OHCHR (2020): A/HRC/44/30: Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change - Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Retrieved from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/ahrc4430-analytical-study-promotion-and-protection-rights-persons>, accessed on 28/08/2024

19 DESA (2018): Disability and Development Report - Realising the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with Persons with Disabilities. Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/10/UN-flagship-report-on-disability-and-development.pdf>, accessed on 28/08/2024

20 UNICEF (2022): Seen, Counted, Included: Using data to shed light on the well-being of children with disabilities. Retrieved from: <https://data.unicef.org/resources/children-with-disabilities-report-2021/>, accessed on 28/08/2024

21 DESA (2018): Disability and Development Report - Realising the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with Persons with Disabilities. Retrieved from: www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/10/UN-flagship-report-on-disability-and-development.pdf, accessed on 28/08/2024



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- As COVID-19 has shown, persons with disabilities are **disproportionately affected by pandemics and endemics**, as measures to contain them multiply mental, environmental and institutional barriers. In addition, persons with disabilities may have pre-existing health conditions that make them more susceptible to viral infection, cause more serious complications after infection and lead to increased death rates.
- Persons with disabilities are particularly affected and **at risk from the negative effects of the climate crisis**:
 - The mortality rate in natural disasters is two to four times higher for persons with disabilities than for people without disabilities.²²
 - Some persons with disabilities experience greater health impacts from extreme weather.²³
 - Natural disasters and extreme weather events make it difficult for persons with disabilities to access food and nutrition, clean drinking water and sanitary facilities, health services and medicines, education and vocational training, adequate housing and decent work.²⁴
 - Persons with disabilities are marginalized in climate talks and climate adaptation measures.²⁵ As a result, climate strategies and measures can have a negative impact on persons with disabilities and their interests are not taken into account.²⁶
 - 1.3 billion persons with disabilities are indispensable as consumers, workers and entrepreneurs if climate targets are to be achieved and greenhouse gas emissions reduced as quickly and as much as possible.²⁷ The lack of accessibility and inclusion exacerbates the climate crisis.

Legal Basis and Political Framework

International

The basic principle of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),²⁸ which the United Nations set in 2015 in the 2030 Agenda, is *Leave no one behind*, i.e. leave no one behind and include all people in society. Inclusion and the rights of persons with disabilities are specifically enshrined in eight of these goals: SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (no hunger), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustaina-

22 Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2019): IASC Guidelines, Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. Retrieved from: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-guidelines-on-inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-humanitarian-action-2019>, accessed on 28/08/2024

23 ibid

24 See footnote 18.

25 Light for the World (2020): Klimaschutz und Menschenrechte: Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen. Retrieved from: https://www.licht-fuer-die-welt.at/app/uploads/climatechange_de.pdf, accessed on 28/08/2024

26 Klimareporter.in (2022): Stärker betroffen, weniger beachtet: Inklusiver Klimaschutz aus dem Blickwinkel von Menschen mit Behinderungen. Retrieved from: <https://klimareporter.in/inklusive-klimapolitik/>, accessed on 28/08/2024

27 ILO (2019): Policy brief: Persons with disabilities in a just transition to a low-carbon economy. Retrieved from: <https://www.ilo.org/media/405946/download>, accessed on 28/08/2024

28 Federal Chancellery of Austria (n.d.): Ziele der Agenda 2030. Retrieved from: <https://www.bundeskanzleramt.gv.at/themen/nachhaltige-entwicklung-agenda-2030/ziele-der-agenda-2030.html>, accessed on 29/08/2024



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ble cities and communities), and SDG 17 (partnerships to achieve the goals).

Comprehensive social inclusion is also one of the eight fundamental principles of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD).²⁹ The CRPD is a human-rights convention of the United Nations that was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 December 2006 and entered into force on 3 May 2008. The CRPD stipulates that all people, including persons with disabilities, have the right to participate in all aspects of social life on an equal and self-determined basis. This applies, for example, to an inclusive education system (SDG 4, Art. 24 CRPD), an inclusive labour market (SDG 8, Art. 27 CRPD) and inclusive access in the leisure sector (e.g. SDG 11, Art. 30 CRPD). Following the social or human-rights based model of disability (see above), it is not persons with disabilities who have to adapt to the social environment, but rather the social environment must be designed in such a way that all people can participate in social life on an equal footing. This also means, for example, providing community-based, low-threshold support services, such as personal assistance or accessible communication. Everyone in society benefits from an accessible and inclusive environment.

Two key articles of the CRPD for the context of international project and programme work, as well as for humanitarian aid, are specifically Article 11, which safeguards the rights of persons with disabilities and their inclusion in situations of risk and in the context of humanitarian aid, and Article 32, which safeguards these rights in international cooperation and development cooperation. In accordance with the CRPD, the inclusion of persons with disabilities is just as much a cross-cutting issue as gender equality and climate justice. For the implementation of these articles, it is necessary to make all programmes, projects and measures inclusive – i.e. structurally barrier-free, communicatively and socially accessible and participatory – for all.

In the context of humanitarian aid, the **Sphere Standards** are the most widely used and best-known set of core humanitarian standards, which are set out in the Sphere Handbook.³⁰ The Core Humanitarian Standards contained therein gave rise to the development of the **Humanitarian inclusion standards for older people and persons with disabilities**, which consist of nine core inclusion standards and seven sets of sector-specific inclusion standards. They are intended to help address the needs, abilities and rights of older people and persons with disabilities in more detail and promote their inclusion in humanitarian action.³¹

Furthermore, the *IASC Guideline on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action* sets out key actions that humanitarian actors should take to identify and respond to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities. The guideline also emphasizes the need to include persons with disabilities in all phases of humanitarian assistance.³²

In relation to the climate crisis, the *UN Resolution on Human Rights and Climate Change*, adop-

29 Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health Care and Consumer Protection (n.d.): UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention. Retrieved from: <https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Soziales/Menschen-mit-Behinderungen/UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention.html>, accessed on 29/08/2024

30 Sphere Standards (2018): The Sphere Handbook 2018. Retrieved from: <https://spherestandards.org/handbook-2018/>, accessed on 29/08/2024

31 CBM; HelpAge; HI (2018): Humanitarian inclusion standards for older people and people with disabilities. Retrieved from: <https://www.helpage.org/silo/files/humanitarian-inclusion-standards-for-older-people-and-people-with-disabilities.pdf>, accessed on 29/08/2024

32 See footnote 22.



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ted in July 2019, calls on governments to ensure human rights in all actions related to climate change. More specifically, it calls on states to ensure the participation of those most affected by the climate crisis through a comprehensive, integrated, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation. In particular, it calls on states to promote the resilience and adaptive capacity of persons with disabilities to better respond to the impacts of climate change.³³

In addition, the **Paris Agreement** – reached by the parties to the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) in 2015 – is an essential agreement to intensify measures and specific strategies to combat and mitigate the climate crisis, including for persons with disabilities. The agreement emphasizes the need to focus on vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities.

In the same year, the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030** was adopted at the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and has since provided a basis for action for states and civil societies to strengthen coherent practices with regard to the prevention and reduction of disaster risks worldwide. It focuses on building economic and social resilience to mitigate the negative impacts of the climate crisis. Persons with disabilities are mentioned throughout the framework and states are encouraged to disaggregate indicators by disability in their reporting.³⁴

Europe

In March 2021, the European Commission adopted the **Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021–2030**.³⁵ The strategy builds on the results of the previous *European Disability Strategy 2010–2020* and takes into account the diversity of disabilities: for example, invisible disabilities, such as mental or chronic illnesses. It addresses the risk for women, children, elderly, refugees with disabilities, and people with socio-economic difficulties of facing multiple discrimination and promotes an intersectional perspective in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Member States are invited to contribute to this strategy, which provides a framework for EU action and the implementation of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD).

Austria

Austria ratified the CRPD and the corresponding additional protocol in 2008, thereby committing itself in principle to its implementation. Like all other human rights treaties, Austria ratified the CRPD with a so-called fulfilment reservation. This means that the CRPD is not directly applicable in Austria. The rights enshrined in the CRPD must first be implemented in Austrian regulations so that courts or administrative authorities can base their decisions exclusively on the CRPD. However, they must

³³ UN General Assembly (2019): Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 12 July 2019: Human Rights and Climate Change, (A/HRC/RES/41/21). Retrieved from: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G19/223/65/PDF/G1922365.pdf?OpenElement>, accessed on 29/08/2024

³⁴ UNDRR (2015): Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Retrieved from: <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>, accessed on 29/08/2024

³⁵ European Commission (n.d.): Union of Equality: Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030. Retrieved from: <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1484&langId=en>, accessed on 29/08/2024



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apply existing national law in accordance with the treaty.

Austria's first state review, in which the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN Committee of Experts) examined the implementation of the CRPD, took place in 2013. In August 2023, the combined second and third state review took place before the UN Committee of Experts in Geneva. The UN Committee of Experts also drew up so-called 'concluding observations' for Articles 11 and 32, which primarily draw attention to the lack of a systematic and coordinated strategy with the full participation of persons with disabilities to implement the 2030 Agenda in international cooperation activities and the non-involvement of organisations of persons with disabilities at country level in dangerous situations and humanitarian emergencies. The lack of consideration for international guidelines and standards such as the Sendai Framework and the IASC Guidelines as well as the Core Humanitarian Standards was also emphasized.³⁶

The independent **Austrian Monitoring Committee** monitors compliance with the rights of persons with disabilities by the public administration in the area of federal competence. This also applies to the implementation of Articles 11 and 32 by the federal government, i.e. Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and Humanitarian Aid or the Foreign Disaster Relief Fund (AKF). In July 2022, the Committee published a statement on inclusion and accessibility in humanitarian aid, which highlights problems in supporting persons with disabilities.³⁷

Section 1 (4) of the **Austrian Development Cooperation Act**³⁸ contains the principle of 'meaningful consideration of children and persons with disabilities' as a guiding principle that all Austrian development policy measures should follow.

The strategic priority area B.2, Inclusive societies, democratic governance and empowerment of women, is anchored in the **Three-Year Programme of Austrian Development Policy 2022–2024**.^{39, 40} Austria pursues three measures:

1. The self-determination of persons with disabilities is to be promoted through equal participation in public and political life, equal and inclusive access to education/training and the labour market,
2. new ADC measures should directly or indirectly serve the goal of implementing the inclusion and equal rights of persons with disabilities,
3. and active cooperation of all stakeholders in the working group *inclusion of persons with disabilities in development cooperation* as a national platform is sought.

³⁶ A document with concrete proposals for improving these and other comments was drawn up by Global Responsibility.

³⁷ Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health Care and Consumer Protection (n.d.): UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention. Retrieved from: <https://www.sozialministerium.at/Themen/Soziales/Menschen-mit-Behinderungen/UN-Behindertenrechtskonvention.html>, accessed on 29/08/2024

³⁸ Federal Legal Information System (n.d.): Federal law consolidated: Entire legal provision for the Development Cooperation Act. Retrieved from: <https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001847>, accessed on 29/08/2024

³⁹ Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (n.d.): Strategy of Austrian Development Cooperation. Retrieved from: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/strategie-der-oesterreichischen-entwicklungszusammenarbeit>, accessed on 29/08/2024

⁴⁰ Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (2022) Dreijahresprogramm der österreichischen Entwicklungspolitik 2022 bis 2024. Retrieved from: https://www.entwicklung.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente/Publikationen/3_JP/2022-2024_Dreijahresprogramm.pdf, accessed on 29/08/2024



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In October 2023, the Council of Ministers adopted a **humanitarian aid strategy** for the first time, which defines objectives, responsibilities and priorities more clearly than before. The adopted strategy references vulnerable groups, explicitly including persons with disabilities, and recognizes intersectionality, i.e. the impact of the existence of multiple grounds of discrimination, such as gender and disability. This Humanitarian strategy also refers to the CRPD. It thus lays important foundations for further inclusive implementation of Austria's humanitarian aid. At the same time, however, there is still a lack of clear indicators and measurable goals to ensure that humanitarian aid actually reaches persons with disabilities.⁴¹

In addition, numerous Austrian organisations or their international representations have signed the ***Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action***. By signing this charter, the parties involved commit to making humanitarian measures inclusive for persons with disabilities, removing obstacles to their access to aid and support and ensuring their participation in humanitarian programmes.⁴²

41 Austrian Federal Government (2023): Austrian Humanitarian Aid Strategy. Retrieved from: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/humanitarian-aid#:~:text=The%20geographic%20focus%20of%20Austrian,Ukraine%20and%20its%20neighbouring%20countries>, accessed on 29/08/2024

42 Humanitarian Disability Charter (n.d.): Charter on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. Retrieved from: <https://humanitariananddisability-charter.org/wp-content/themes/humanitarian-disability-charter.org/pdf/charter-on-inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-humanitarian-action.pdf>, accessed on 29/08/2024



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Measures and Recommendations for Implementing the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

The concrete approaches that enable the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development cooperation and humanitarian aid are listed below. They are aimed at all actors in development cooperation and humanitarian aid and should be implemented in the respective policies, development cooperation/humanitarian aid strategies, budgets, projects and programmes in the form of concrete inclusion steps.

Paradigm of Disability

All stakeholders must adopt and apply a human-rights based understanding of disability. The goal is an inclusive society in which persons with disabilities can exercise their fundamental rights to participation, inclusion, equal opportunities, safety and dignity. Due to social stereotypes and negative connotations, the image is often conveyed that persons with disabilities are not able to work, learn or even participate. They are often denied the right and ability to make their own decisions. However, these barriers are primarily a social product that society reproduces.

These barriers should be broken down through empowerment, self-advocacy and inclusive participation. Language and barrier-free communication (easy language, sign language, Braille, digital accessibility, etc.) also play a key role in development cooperation and humanitarian aid in order to counteract stigmatisation and discrimination. In addition, the inclusion approaches outlined in this briefing paper must be taken seriously and implemented.

Inclusion Strategy of Austrian Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid

Austrian development cooperation (ADC) and humanitarian aid do not currently pursue a comprehensive inclusion strategy, but this is necessary for inclusion to succeed comprehensively. A strategy should be developed with the active participation of civil society, in particular representative organizations (organizations of persons with disabilities, OPDs), and contain principles and guidelines for the inclusion of persons with disabilities, regardless of nationality, skin colour, gender, religion, age or other. This will establish the inclusion of persons with disabilities as a binding goal and universal obligation for all policy areas, policy instruments and other strategies of ADC and humanitarian aid and its partners. In addition, it must be anchored in such a strategy that measures are only implemented with the active participation of experts with disabilities in accordance with the guiding principle *Nothing about us without us*.

Participation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and Their Representative Organizations

There needs to be a structured dialogue (together with private and public funding bodies) with political representatives, as well as at the programme planning and implementation level. In accordance



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with the CRPD, the effective participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations must be ensured in projects and programmes that affect persons with disabilities. This applies to all phases of project cycle management. However, participation is more than just providing information about decision-making processes and asking for opinions, ideas and suggestions. Effective participation is characterized by the fact that persons with disabilities have a say in decision-making and that transparent information is provided as to why decisions were made the way they were. In addition, comprehensive accessibility must be guaranteed so that persons with disabilities can actually participate effectively. The political level must also ensure that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are included in committees and processes, even if a framework has to be created first.

Tackling the climate crisis also requires the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all change processes so that the solutions to be developed are accessible and usable for all people, with and without disabilities, and do not have a negative impact on persons with disabilities. In this sense, climate protection and climate adaptation measures must not only serve to overcome the climate crisis, but also to promote inclusion. The involvement of persons with disabilities in overcoming the climate crisis must therefore take place at an early stage, continuously and on an equal footing, and must also be taken into account centrally in the course of funding and investments.

The skills and expertise of women with disabilities (who may experience multiple discrimination due to their gender and disability) must be equally taken into account in all processes. Structures are needed for the long-term representation of the interests of women with disabilities; self-representation and strong networking are necessary.⁴³ The sixth General Comment on the CRPD⁴⁴ provides more details on this.

Twin-Track Approach

The twin-track approach of ADC and humanitarian aid is an important step towards comprehensive inclusion. This two-track approach describes the promotion of specific programmes for persons with disabilities and the parallel planning and implementation of general programmes in a barrier-free and inclusive manner (*mainstreaming*).⁴⁵ Specific examples of implementation can be found under: Tips for the concrete implementation of inclusion in development policy in this document (see p. 13).

Comprehensive Accessibility

To ensure comprehensive accessibility in all its dimensions, the following aspects must be taken into account and adapted to the respective geographical context:

○ Creating structural accessibility and infrastructure (for instance in the course of reconstruc-

⁴³ Austrian Disability Council (2020): Forderungen der Frauen mit Behinderungen. Retrieved from: <https://www.behindertenrat.at/forderungen-der-frauen-%20mit-behinderungen/>, accessed on 29/08/2024

⁴⁴ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commission (2018): General comment No.7 on Article 4.3 and 33.3 - the participation of persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention. Retrieved from: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no7-article-43-and-333-participation>, accessed on 29/08/2024

⁴⁵ Monitoring Committee (2012): Statement on Accessible Humanitarian Aid & Development Co-operation. Retrieved from: https://www.monitoringausschuss.at/download/stellungnahmen/entwicklungszusammenarbeit/MA_SN_Entwicklungszusammenarbeit_2012_04_12.pdf, accessed on 29/08/2024



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tion activities following disasters): for example, creating accessible public spaces, barrier-free entrances and paths to buildings, building accessible and safe toilets and lifts (where available), equipping public buildings with easy-to-read guidance systems and creating barrier-free public transport options. The aim is to create barrier-free routes.

- **Creating communicative accessibility:** for example, providing information in easy/simple language, sign language and Braille, as well as visual information in acoustic form (consistent implementation of the two-senses principle, according to which at least two of the three senses hearing, sight, and touch should be addressed).
- **Creating digital accessibility:** for example, creating accessible websites and digital services.
- **Awareness-raising measures:** Promote measures that lead to the elimination of prejudices, clichés and gender stereotypes towards persons with disabilities on a social, institutional and economic level.
- **Creating gender-equitable accessibility:** The above measures should go hand in hand with gender-equitable access, gender-equitable representation and language, and combating gender-based violence.

Disaggregated Data and Reports

For the sustainable planning and implementation of inclusive development cooperation and humanitarian aid, the collection of statistical data on access to programmes and projects and their breakdown at least by gender, age and disability is a prerequisite. The identification of marginalized groups and (multiple) discriminated persons plays an important role in the development of context-relevant development cooperation measures. The more disaggregated data is available, the more factors that lead to the marginalisation of certain groups of people become visible.

It is important that affected and often excluded people (women, persons with disabilities, minorities, young people, etc) are not only included on the basis of analyses and surveys, but that their access and participation are measured in a disaggregated manner.

OECD-DAC Inclusion and Empowerment Marker

Due to its membership in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), Austria is obliged to disclose the amount of its Official Development Assistance (ODA) on an annual basis. The inclusion marker provides information on what proportion of the expenditure is used for inclusion projects and what proportion is used for projects that take inclusion into account (i.e. projects and programmes that plan and implement all components and activities inclusively). Austria uses this marker voluntarily; there are currently no strategic targets regarding the proportion within the overall expenditure. In accordance with the CRPD, all programmes should in any case incorporate Marker 1.

Intersectionality

Particular attention must be paid to the intersectionality of vulnerable groups and intersectional discrimination against women and girls with disabilities, for example. In practice, this means carrying



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out gender and diversity analyses and breaking down collected data according to gender, age, disability, etc. There is a variety of experiences, skills, strengths and needs among the target groups that need to be understood, addressed and utilized for successful strategies and project plans. Persons with disabilities or women and girls should not be regarded as vulnerable per se, as is often the case. These categories should be analysed in a context-specific manner and the intersectional experiences of discrimination of these people should be addressed.

Training and Capacity Development of Stakeholders

The actors involved need appropriate awareness and expertise in order to implement all measures both in Austria and in partner countries – task that needs to be built up over a longer period of time. In partner countries, it is also necessary to specifically promote the capacities of OPDs and their self-advocacy organizations in order to support their participation in the best possible way. It is equally important to strengthen the awareness and capacities of other development cooperation and humanitarian aid organisations so that they too can better include persons with disabilities.



Annex

1. Tips for the Concrete Implementation of Inclusion in Development Policy and Humanitarian Aid: How Can We Approach Inclusion and Anchor it in Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid?

Integrating inclusion into development cooperation and humanitarian aid is not done in one step: as with other cross-cutting issues, such as gender or climate protection, actors in development cooperation and humanitarian aid need to deal with inclusion comprehensively. This requires appropriate expertise and resources. Possible steps are:

a. Human Resources

- **Raising awareness:** The aim is to raise awareness of inclusion and its importance in partner countries and within your own organization with the help of well-founded information and direct exchange with persons with disabilities.
- **Inclusive recruiting:** The aim is to provide application information in accessible formats, actively encourage applications from persons with disabilities and offer support where necessary.
- **Training:** Awareness-raising training, which is also offered by self-advocates, should be utilized. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) also offers training, for example on inclusive project cycle management.⁴⁶

b. Organisation and Structures

- **Determine implementation steps as part of an organisational analysis:** It is important to analyze which areas of an organisation are already inclusive and in which areas adaptations are still necessary. Concrete implementation steps and a timetable can be developed.
- **Focal point:** In order to coordinate an organizational analysis, build up know-how and resources, carry out internal consultations and exchange information with working groups (for instance between the platform Global Responsibility and ADC), a focal point is needed; a person or department that takes the lead in these and other tasks.

c. Projects and Programmes

- **Introduce inclusive project cycle management:** Inclusion must be actively considered at every planning step, from data analysis (for instance using the Washington Group Questionnaire) to the planning of measures in which representatives of disability organisations must be involved. The ADA's online training programme on project cycle management is very helpful here.⁴⁷

⁴⁶ See Austrian Development Agency (n.d.): ADA-E-Learning on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Project Cycle Management. Retrieved from: <https://www.entwicklung.at/themen/governance-menschenrechte-migration/e-learning>, accessed on 29/08/2024

⁴⁷ *ibid*



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- **Twin-track approach:** The twin-track approach has proved its worth in the organisation of development cooperation and humanitarian aid. This involves developing specific services and projects for and with persons with disabilities and including persons with disabilities in all other projects, e.g. women's programmes, health projects, water supply, rural development, adaptation of infrastructure, etc. All programmes and projects must be planned and implemented inclusively. In humanitarian aid in particular, the IASC guidelines for inclusive humanitarian aid also recommend 'must-do actions'. As already mentioned, these relate to the following areas and should be used by all humanitarian actors in their planning:
 - Meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in the planning and implementation of humanitarian programmes/projects
 - Removal of barriers
 - Empowering persons with disabilities and supporting them in developing their abilities
 - Collection and provision of disaggregated data to make inclusion visible and measurable

d. Working in Partnership

- **External resources – consultants:** It is advisable to involve specialist organizations in Austria and selected experts (including international experts) in training or organisational analyses. The *inclusion and development* working group of the platform Global Responsibility can provide relevant advice.
- **Cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in partner countries in practice:** The aim is to apply the know-how acquired (including the project cycle with the involvement of persons with disabilities) within the framework of programmes and projects in the project countries and to remove barriers within the organisation in Austria (office infrastructure, communication, workplaces, etc.).
- **Exchange:** In Austria, the platform Global Responsibility and its *inclusion and development* working group offer organisations the opportunity for direct exchange.

2. Collection of Resources: What Tools and Documents are Already Available?

Overview and Toolkits

- WHO (2022): [Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities](#) ↑
- United Nations: [Implementing the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy: Tools and Resources](#) ↑
- UNGA/OHCHR (2021): [Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change](#) ↑
- CBM (2018): [The 4 Ps for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities within Climate Change Plans: Personal, Programmes, Policy and Political](#) ↑
- CBM (2017): [Disability Inclusive Development Toolkit](#) ↑



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- IGLYO (2014): [Intersectionality Toolkit](#)↑
- IASC (2019): [Guidelines: Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#)↑
- DG ECHO (2019): [Operational Guidance – The Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in EU-funded Humanitarian Operations](#)↑
- IFRC (2022): [Minimum Standards for Protection, Gender and Inclusion in Emergencies](#)↑
- ADCAP (2018): [Humanitarian Inclusion Standards for Older People and People with Disabilities](#)↑
- ADA (n.d.): [Tipsheet Inclusion in Humanitarian Aid](#)↑

Disaggregated Data and Reports

- [Washington Group on Disability Statistics](#)⁴⁸↑
- WHO (2015): [Capturing the difference we make. Community-based Rehabilitation Indicators Manual](#)↑
- University of Notre Dame (n.d.): [Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative \(ND-GAIN\) Country Index](#)↑
Summarizes a country's vulnerability to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to improve resilience.

Trainings

- ADA: [Online Training Course for the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Project Cycle Management](#)↑
- DG ECHO Partner's Website (n.d.): [Learning and Training](#)↑

3. Key Players

Austria

Civil Society

[Austrian Disability Council](#)↑

As the umbrella organisation of over 80 member organizations and representative of the interests of 1.4 million persons with disabilities in Austria, the Austrian Disability Council also campaigns for the rights of persons with disabilities at international and European level and is a board member of the European Disability Forum (EDF).

[Global Responsibility – Austrian Platform for Development and Humanitarian Aid](#)↑

The inclusion and development working group of the platform Global Responsibility (the umbrella organisation of 36 Austrian non-governmental organizations from the fields of development cooperation, humanitarian aid and domestic development and education work), has set itself the task of strengthening inclusion in the development cooperation and humanitarian aid of its member

⁴⁸ The Washington Group offers numerous useful questionnaires on its website.



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organizations and ADC state actors. In addition to member organizations of Global Responsibility (CARE Austria, Caritas Austria, Diakonie, Hilfswerk International, Horizont3000, IUFE, Jugend eine Welt, Light for the World and the Austrian Red Cross), BIZEPS, MyAbility, the Austrian Disability Council, the Austrian Association for the Blind and the Austrian Federation of the Deaf, self-advocacy organizations and the Institute for Educational Science at the University of Vienna also contribute to the working group.

Politics and Administration

Monitoring Committee ↑

The independent committee monitors whether the administration fulfils the human rights of persons with disabilities in the federal government's areas of responsibility. In doing so, the committee refers to the CRPD.

Ministry of Social Affairs ↑

The Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health Care and Consumer Protection (BMSGPK) is responsible for drawing up and evaluating the *National Action Plan on Disability 2022–2030* (NAP). SDG 1 (no poverty) is anchored as an impact goal in the budget of the Ministry of Social Affairs.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs ↑

The Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs (BMEIA) strategically organizes Austria's development cooperation and policy. The Austrian Development Cooperation Act⁴⁹ from 2003 already enshrined the inclusive basic principle that 'the needs of children and persons with disabilities must be taken into account in a meaningful way in all measures'. In addition, the CRPD stipulates that development cooperation projects must be inclusive.

Austrian Development Agency ↑

The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) implements programmes and projects in cooperation with public institutions, development and humanitarian aid organizations and companies. ADA's budget is provided by the MFA. The majority of the funds are invested in ADC priority regions and countries. ADA is committed to paying particular attention to gender equality and the needs of persons with disabilities, especially children with disabilities.

Working Group Inclusion and Development ↑

The platform Global Responsibility brings civil society positions, for example on the inclusion of persons with disabilities, into ADC. Together with other ADC actors, it participates in the advisory working group of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ADA, which is listed as an important measure in the *Three-Year Programme of the Austrian Development Policy 2022–2024*.

⁴⁹ Federal Legal Information System (n.d.): Federal law consolidated: Entire legal provision for the Development Cooperation Act. Retrieved from: <https://www.ris.bka.gv.at/GeltendeFassung.wxe?Abfrage=Bundesnormen&Gesetzesnummer=20001847>, accessed on 29/08/2024



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Europe and International

Civil Society

International Disability Alliance (IDA) ↑

The Alliance brings together over 1,100 organizations of persons with disabilities and their families from eight global and six regional networks. IDA is committed to the inclusion of persons with disabilities and supports its member organizations in reviewing government work in implementing the UN Convention in their countries.

International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) ↑

The international consortium is an association of civil society organizations that pursue the goal of promoting inclusive development and humanitarian measures worldwide. The members of IDDC decide on joint activities in thematic working groups.

European Disability Forum (EDF) ↑

The umbrella organisation of European organizations of persons with disabilities represents over 100 million people and is a member of the IDA.

European NGO Confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) ↑

CONCORD is the umbrella organization of development and humanitarian non-governmental organizations in Europe and the most important development policy contact for EU institutions.

Inclusion Europe ↑

Inclusion Europe is a European association that campaigns for the rights and interests of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families throughout Europe. Lebenshilfe Austria is a member of Inclusion Europe.

African Disability Forum (ADF) ↑

The umbrella organization of African organisations of persons with disabilities aims to ensure the rights and inclusion of all persons with disabilities in Africa. ADF has developed into a strong, unified and effective African disability movement and the voice of persons with disabilities and their families. ADF is a member of IDA.

Politics and Administration

United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) ↑

As an independent expert, the Committee monitors the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by the signatory states. They are obliged to report regularly to the Committee on the status of implementation of the rights, which then makes recommenda-



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tions. The Committee consists of 18 independent experts and usually holds two meetings per year in Geneva.

World Health Organization (WHO) ↑

The World Health Organization is obliged to implement the *UN Disability Inclusion Strategy*⁵⁰ and has developed a guideline on inclusion and disability as well as an action plan for its implementation. In addition, the WHO published the *World Report on Disability*⁵¹ in 2011, a new version of which was published in December 2022. The 2022 report described analyses, findings and recommendations on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the healthcare sector. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO has published two briefings, *Disability Considerations During the COVID-19 Pandemic*⁵² and *Disability Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccination*.⁵³

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) ↑

The committee coordinates humanitarian aid actors and takes the lead in developing humanitarian principles, such as the *IASC Guidelines: Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action*⁵⁴ from 2019 or the current *IASC Key Messages on Applying IASC Guidelines on Disability in the COVID-19 Response*.⁵⁵

4. Project Examples

The following project examples show how the member organizations of the platform Global Responsibility deal with different areas of inclusion as part of their work. The organizations are happy to provide further information on their projects on request.

Overall Approach

Inclusive Sofala

The project is launching an inclusive society for all in the province of Sofala, Mozambique. As part of this five-year programme, a strategic partnership with ADA 2018–2022, four intervention strategies are being implemented simultaneously:

50 United Nations (n.d.) United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy. Retrieved from: <https://www.un.org/en/content/disabilitystrategy/>, accessed on 29/08/2024

51 World Health Organisation (2011): World report on disability. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241564182>, accessed on 29/08/2024

52 World Health Organisation (2020): Disability considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-Disability-2020-1>, accessed on 29/08/2024

53 World Health Organisation (2021): Disability considerations for COVID-19 vaccination: WHO and UNICEF policy brief. Retrieved from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/who-2019-ncov-vaccination-and-disability-policy-brief-20211>, accessed on 29/08/2024

54 IASC (2019): IASC Guidelines, Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, 2019. Retrieved from: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-guidelines-on-inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-humanitarian-action-2019>, accessed on 29/08/2024

55 IASC (20120): IASC Key Messages on Applying IASC Guidelines on Disability in the COVID-19 Response. Retrieved from: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-task-team-inclusion-persons-disabilities-humanitarian-action/iasc-key-messages-applying-iasc-guidelines-disability-covid-19-response>, accessed on 29/08/2024



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- Promoting access to specially adapted services for persons with disabilities (with a focus on education, rehabilitation and health, the labour market, and social benefits).
- Strengthen the technical skills of local, state and civil society actors in the areas of community-based rehabilitation and inclusive education and support them in the daily application of this knowledge.
- Raise general awareness about persons with disabilities and support the development and implementation of inclusive development and government programmes.
- Strengthen the Mozambican government's commitment to inclusive development in the long term and consolidate the role of disability organizations as a reliable voice for persons with disabilities in the country.

SUPPORTED BY ADC

Contact: Light for the World (advocacy@light-for-the-world.org)

RéCouVrer

The three-year consortium programme is being implemented by the seven Austrian aid organizations Caritas Austria, HOPE'87, HORIZONT3000, ICEP, Jugend eine Welt, Light for the World and the Austrian Red Cross together with partner organizations in Burkina Faso and Senegal. The programme aims to strengthen the resilience of disadvantaged groups, especially women and persons with disabilities, in relation to the negative effects of the COVID-19 crisis. It is based on the nexus approach and integrates short-term disaster risk reduction measures. Longer-term measures are being implemented in vocational training and income generation as well as to improve and diversify agriculture in order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19. The measures described support beneficiaries in coping with the crisis and its effects.

SUPPORTED BY ADC

Contact: Caritas Austria (eve.schiefer@caritas-austria.at), Light for the World (advocacy@light-for-the-world.org)

Education

My Right

Inclusion for children with multiple disabilities and learning difficulties in mainstream schools. Methodologically, an index for inclusion is used for structural improvements in the education system in Armenia and Kosovo.

FUNDED BY THE ADA

Contact: Caritas Tyrol (julia.stabentheiner@caritas-tirol.at), Caritas Carinthia (t.sacher@caritas-kaernten.at)



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School of Hope

Inclusion of deaf children in basic education, integration classes, training of teaching staff, support for families, sign language courses for hearing family members, advocacy work and awareness-raising in the city of Matadi, Democratic Republic of Congo.

SUPPORTED BY ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND CARITAS UPPER AUSTRIA

Contact: Caritas Upper Austria (internationale.hilfe@caritas-ooe.at)

School without Barriers

Making public schools in Zimbabwe inclusive through child-centred pedagogy, further training of teaching staff, advocacy work in the education system and the establishment of inclusive school clubs.

Contact: Diakonie ACT Austria/Bread for the World (iha@diakonie.at)

Gender and Disability in Practice (GADIP)

Empowering and supporting women with disabilities in Uganda and Lesotho as entrepreneurs.

Contact: Diakonie ACT Austria/Bread for the World (iha@diakonie.at)

Internships as a Start in Life

Organizing work placements for women with disabilities, job application training and support for necessary workplace adjustments in several countries.

Contact: Diakonie ACT Austria/Bread for the World (iha@diakonie.at)

Rebooting Literacy

6% of the population of Burkina Faso are blind or visually impaired. However, only 1 to 7% of all reading materials worldwide are available in accessible formats. Exercise books, notes and exams are often translated manually into Braille. The Rebooting Literacy project aims to produce school and teaching materials in accessible formats between 2020 and 2023, develop guidelines, enable an online library and offer a standard programme for accessible publications.

Details: [One Class for All](#)†

Contact: Light for the World (advocacy@light-for-the-world.org)

Labour

YourJob

Multi-year employment programme for particularly vulnerable young people in the Western Balkans with a focus on the transition between school and employment. Young persons with disabilities are specifically included in vocational preparation and employment programmes.



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FUNDED BY RENOVABIS, ADA, AND CARITAS AUSTRIA

Contact: Caritas Austria and Caritas EU (tobias.noelke@caritas-austria.at)

Make 12.4% Work

Officially, 12.4% of Uganda's population are persons with disabilities. This programme is driven by young persons with disabilities and self-advocacy organizations. It aims to improve inclusion by encouraging stakeholders in government, the private sector and civil society in Uganda to increase their commitment to persons with disabilities and to take inclusive action.

SUPPORTED BY THE NATIONAL LOTTERY FUND, UK

Details: [Make the 12.4% Work](#)

Contact: Light for the World (advocacy@light-for-the-world.org)

InBusiness

The programme promotes micro-enterprises owned by persons with disabilities and their access to public and private procurement systems in Kenya. It aims to contribute to improving the social and economic well-being of persons with disabilities and their families.

Details: [InBusiness Initiative](#)

Contact: Light for the World (advocacy@light-for-the-world.org)

Health

Living with dementia

Dementia-friendly structures are being implemented in two model regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Belarus. Project for the inclusion of people with dementia and their relatives in society. Housing adaptation and special services to support carers and relatives complement the programme to raise awareness and provide information on the topic of dementia.

SUPPORTED BY RENOVABIS AND CARITAS UPPER AUSTRIA

Contact: Caritas Upper Austria (internationale.hilfe@caritas-ooe.at)

Eye Care for All

The aim of the project is to establish gender-appropriate, sustainable eye care for all, in hospitals and mobile operations in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Contact: Light for the World, advocacy@light-for-the-world.org



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Dementia Education in Ukraine

The programme promotes self-advocacy among older people through awareness-raising, peer-to-peer support and in collaboration with local authorities, thereby raising awareness on dementia.

Contact: Diakonie ACT Austria/Bread for the World (iha@diakonie.at)

Action and Fun!

The programme promotes physical activity for children with disabilities through special exercise programmes, adaptation of existing sports and exercise facilities and special mobilisation programmes such as MOVE in Belarus.

FUNDED BY THE UEFA CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION AND THE PROVINCE OF UPPER AUSTRIA

Contact: Caritas Upper Austria (internationale.hilfe@caritas-ooe.at)

COVID Resilience

The aim of the project *Strengthening resilience of older people and persons with disabilities during Covid-19 in the Western Balkans* by the Red Cross Serbia in cooperation with the Austrian Red Cross is to strengthen resilience to the Covid-19 pandemic and prepare for future epidemics. The focus is on physical and mental health, promoting civil society organisations, strengthening the National Red Cross Societies and improving public regulations. The target group is persons with disabilities and elderly people in the Western Balkans.

FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ADC

Contact: Austrian Red Cross (christian.diemt@roteskreuz.at)

Participation

ACTIVE

Accessible Communication Towards Inclusion of Vulnerable and Excluded People on Western Balkans is a programme for accessible communication in five countries in the Western Balkans. The aim is to develop guidelines in the respective languages for translations, education, training and awareness-raising and to publish accessible information for various target groups.

SUPPORTED BY RENOVABIS AND CARITAS AUSTRIA

Details: [ACTIVE](#)

Contact: Caritas Upper Austria (internationale.hilfe@caritas-ooe.at)

Equal Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities in Albania

Support for peer counselling and self-advocacy in Caritas day centres in rural areas. Children with



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disabilities are supported in their integration into school, and young people can be better integrated into the labour market through a vocational preparation programme.

SUPPORTED BY THE ADA, CARITAS ST. PÖLTEN AND OTHERS

Contact: Caritas St. Pölten (lukas.steinwendtner@caritas-stpoelten.at)

Humanitarian Aid

Projects supported by the Foreign Disaster Fund with a strong inclusion component.

ACROSS Ethiopia

The aim of the consortium project *COVID-19 Response Across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus in Ethiopia* by Caritas Austria, Light for the World (project lead) and the Austrian Red Cross is to increase the resilience and self-reliance of institutions, communities and vulnerable people in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic in an inclusive and gender-equitable way. The focus is on the areas of WASH, psychological social assistance and livelihoods.

FUNDED BY ADC

Contact: Light for the World (advocacy@light-for-the-world.org)

Leave No One Behind

Restore livelihoods of the most vulnerable amid COVID-19 pandemic and beyond in Uganda and South Sudan is the guiding principle of the consortium project of Caritas Austria (project management) and Light for the World, which aims to restore the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people in Uganda and South Sudan as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact: Light for the World (advocacy@light-for-the-world.org)

CONNECT

This project provides relief, reconstruction and resilience-building measures for internally displaced people (IDPs) in the districts of Chiúre and Metuge in the Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado. The focus is on (1) food security, (2) psychological first aid and psychosocial support, (3) *Disability Inclusive Community Development* (DICD) and the creation of conditions in which people with disabilities (especially girls and women with disabilities) benefit from humanitarian aid on an equal footing with other affected people.

SUPPORTED BY ADC

Contact: Light for the World (advocacy@light-for-the-world.org)

ICDP Mozambique

The consortium project in Mozambique focusses on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in



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disaster prevention measures. Together with Light for the World, training courses (including first aid measures) are being revised, civil protection exercises focussing on inclusive measures are being held, holistic evacuation plans are being developed and, in principle, it is being ensured that all people are equally well protected and prepared in the event of a disaster.

SUPPORTED BY ADC

Contact: Light for the World (advocacy@light-for-the-world.org)

Improved Gender-Sensitive Access to Water and Sanitary Facilities

The project aims to improve water, sanitation and hygiene conditions for Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities in schools and informal settlements in Lebanon. A gender- and conflict-sensitive approach is being pursued to ensure the inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups such as refugees, children, women, and persons with disabilities. For example, barrier-free toilets are being created in selected schools, with particular attention paid to privacy, safety and child-friendly design. By focussing on menstrual hygiene, schoolgirls are supported in practising safe and dignified menstrual hygiene management and ensuring access to suitable hygiene products.

Contact: Austrian Red Cross (hanna.steger@roteskreuz.at)

Other Projects Focussing on Inclusion in Humanitarian Aid

Empowerment and support for refugees with disabilities in Jordan in the areas of education, assistive devices and access to the labour market (migration and development).

Contact: Diakonie ACT Austria (iha@diakonie.at)

Climate Crisis

We Are Part of the Solution

Many persons with disabilities, children and elderly people were unable to flee Cyclone Idai in Mozambique in time. Survivors of these vulnerable groups report that they had poorer access to humanitarian aid. After Idai, *We Are Part of the Solution* used a participatory approach to develop recommendations on how persons with disabilities can better protect themselves from natural disasters and survive the crisis. The aim was to emphasize the voices and lived experiences of people living in disaster-prone regions.

Details: [Weathering the Storm](#)¹

Contact: Light for the World (z.zicai@light-for-the-world.org)



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EPIC Nepal

As part of this project with the Danish and Nepalese Red Cross, processes were established to make persons with disabilities more resilient to the effects of natural disasters. In an initial phase, work was therefore also carried out on the perception of the respective people in their communities and their integration into social life. In addition, people were supported in becoming more economically independent.

Details: [Nepal: Over 650 people benefit from disability screening camps in remote areas](#)†

Contact: Austrian Red Cross (teresa.mayr@roteskreuz.at)

Supported Organizations of Persons with Disabilities

The South Sudan Union of People with Disabilities

The South Sudan Union of People with Disabilities was officially founded in September 2020. A milestone to jointly advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and demand the realisation of all rights.

Contact: Light for the World (advocacy@light-for-the-world.org)

Disability Inclusion Academy

The Academy supports and trains young persons with disabilities to become Disability Inclusion Facilitators (DIFs, inclusion counsellors and experts). DIFs support inclusion in mainstream programmes, services and the workplace. They build networks, mobilize, train themselves, offer technical support and are role models and change makers.

Details: [Disability Inclusion Academy](#)†

Contact: Light for the World (advocacy@light-for-the-world.org)

National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU) and the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of Disabled (LNFOD)

Measures are being taken to strengthen the capacities of organisations of persons with disabilities in Uganda and Lesotho.

Contact: Diakonie ACT Austria/Bread for the World (iha@diakonie.at)