

# INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

## Guidance Note for DFAT-WFP Strategic Partnership

### 1. Purpose

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) recognises that people with disabilities are both beneficiaries and agents of humanitarian action. One of DFAT's objectives is to ensure that Disability Inclusion is central to all its humanitarian action and initiatives. Disability Inclusion is a key thematic priority in DFAT's Humanitarian Strategy and central to the efficacy of all Australian aid.<sup>1</sup> This Guidance Note outlines DFAT's approach to Disability Inclusion and identifies joint steps that can be taken within the DFAT-WFP Strategic Partnership (SPA) to strengthen Disability Inclusion in humanitarian action in Bangladesh.

### 2. DFAT's Approach to Disability Inclusion

In 2017, Australia launched Foreign Policy White Paper that identified disability as a key crosscutting priority for international engagement on human rights, development assistance and humanitarian action. Australia takes a rights based approach on disability in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities. The Australian Aid Program adopts a twin-track approach to disability-inclusive development which is mentioned in the DFAT's "Development for All 2015-2020" strategy:

- **Mainstream approach**  
Including people with disabilities as participants and beneficiaries of general aid investments.
- **Targeted approach**  
Targeting people with disabilities in development initiatives designed specifically to benefit people with disabilities.

The DFAT approach to Disability Inclusive development is reinforced through explicit inclusion of people with disabilities as active participants in its humanitarian aid programs.

DFAT supports an inclusive approach that seeks to identify and address barriers that prevent people with disabilities from participating in and benefiting from humanitarian action.

The approach also supports improving access for people with disabilities to humanitarian services, promotes systematic use of disaggregated data to improve evidence base and advocacy and reform to effectively ensure Disability Inclusion at different levels.

Australia's humanitarian action is guided by DFAT's Humanitarian Strategy which states that DFAT will: *Integrate gender equality and social inclusion in all aspects of our humanitarian action, promote diverse participation in leadership, and ensure the specific needs of vulnerable groups are addressed.*

### 3. What We Need From Our Partners

We need our partners to actively support Disability Inclusive programming through policy, advocacy and operations including through direction setting, planning and design, implementation and monitoring, performance reporting and evaluation.

At the strategic level, and working in partnership with DFAT's Dhaka Post, WFP Bangladesh could consider the following entry points to strengthen the disability objectives and outcomes:

- Identify key challenges and barriers to Disability Inclusion through consultations with people with disabilities and their representative organisations (known as disabled people's organisations or DPOs).
- Identify opportunities to address these challenges, through a twin track (targeted or a mainstreamed) approach to disability-inclusion.

- Make disability-inclusion actions clear in all documentation: from designs, analysis, contracts and grant agreements, reviews, and evaluations.
- Set aside adequate funding to cover potential costs associated with ensuring people with disabilities and their representative organisations participating in and benefiting from the program.
- Build Disability Inclusion into monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- Find opportunities to leverage other work and engage in policy dialogue to promote Disability-Inclusion.
- Support DPOs and their representatives to promote Disability Inclusion.
- Use the Washington Group questions to disaggregate program-level data by disability.

#### 4. Key Actions for the DFAT-WFP Partnership

Working in partnership, DFAT (Dhaka Post) and WFP Bangladesh will conduct the following key steps to support Disability Inclusive humanitarian action in Bangladesh. Note: this list is not exhaustive and should not prevent WFP from taking other steps to support Disability Inclusion whenever feasible and appropriate.

- a) **Policy, Advocacy and Engagement:** Encourage government and other organisations to address Disability Inclusion in humanitarian action.
  - Identify opportunities to promote implementation of the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.
  - Engage with government to advocate Disability Inclusion and to discuss meeting international obligations and commitments.
  - Raise Disability Inclusion questions as part of crisis planning and preparedness.
  - Engage directly with persons with disabilities and Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs)<sup>1</sup> to ensure a disability perspective and that measures are in place to address the varying needs of persons with disabilities.
  - Encourage meaningful participation of DPOs and PWDs in the ‘process’, i.e. design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation.
  - Learning from the implementation of existing gender policies and using that to inform an organisations approach to disability inclusion.
- b) **Partnership Framework Development:** Ensure there is a requirement in agreements to implement, monitor and report on Disability Inclusion.
  - Ensure data disaggregated by sex, age and disability status and that data is used to improve the effectiveness of programming.
  - Ensure annual or end-of-project reports to have actions on Disability Inclusion, including for evidence of use of disaggregated data.
  - Build the capacity to effectively implement and report on Disability Inclusion within partnership agreements.
  - Leverage the Disability Inclusive Development Help Desk (DID4ALL) to access specialist technical advice on Disability Inclusion.
- c) **Program Design and Appraisal:** Ensure that humanitarian programs have considered inclusion of persons with disabilities at all stages of the program cycle.
  - Consider a twin-track approach in program design that ensures persons with disabilities have equal access to mainstream disaster management operations as well as specialist services.
  - Include persons with disabilities and DPOs in the design and implementation of programs, and in the collection and analysis of data.

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<sup>1</sup> Many communities include groups of people with disabilities that are run by and for people with disabilities, called Disabled People’s Organisations (DPOs). DPOs provide people with disabilities with a voice and are often active in raising awareness of the rights of people with disabilities, identifying needs and priorities for action, and advocating for change. Working with DPOs is an important part of promoting disability inclusion.

- Discuss adequate costing, budgeting and resourcing of inclusive programming (approx. 5% of budget) to ensure persons with disabilities can participate in, contribute to and benefit from humanitarian programs.<sup>2</sup>
- Ensure meetings and activities are accessible to persons with disabilities.

d) **Humanitarian Response:** Ensure that Disability Inclusion is an explicit component of Australia's support to WFP's humanitarian response program and is mainstreamed across all humanitarian action.

- Allocate funding for inclusive programming with a focus on targeted disability programming that addresses physical, policy, communication or attitudinal barriers to participation (noting Australia's funding is flexible and un-earmarked).
- Ensure all beneficiary data to be disaggregated by sex, age and disability. This involves promoting best practices in identifying and registering persons with disabilities in humanitarian response, such as the use of the Washington Group Short Set Questions.<sup>3</sup>
- Establish specific objectives (and indicators) for the humanitarian response programming to improve Disability Inclusion.
- Demonstrate how disaggregating data by disability status is enhancing Disability Inclusive programming.
- Consider Disability Inclusion in evaluations (both real-time and post-crisis) and provide information on how barriers or gaps are being addressed.

## Next Steps for the DFAT-WFP Strategic Partnership

- Ensure reporting on disability is included in relevant reports, frameworks and evaluations including future funding agreements in 2019.
- Share the Key Messages and Learnings from the WFP Session of the Disability Inclusive Development Training with WFP Senior Managers, Activity Managers, External Relations staff and Focal Points.
- Explore new ideas to increase the number of people with disabilities involved in WFP planning and policy including considering targets and raising with the DDR Team and Access Audit Team.
- Consider encouraging people with disabilities to apply for WFP positions via WFP Job Circulars.
- Explore whether Washington Group Questions can be applied to DFAT funded projects in Bangladesh.
- WFP to access technical advice from CBM, through DFAT, if required.
- Explore opportunities to actively engage with Humanity and Inclusion (formerly Handicap International).
- Share WFP Gender Annex to enhance DFAT's understanding of WFP's inclusion strategies.

## Annex

**The following definition of disability inclusion is adapted from DFAT's strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program<sup>ii</sup>:**

Disability inclusion recognizes that people with disabilities are both beneficiaries and agents of humanitarian action. An inclusive approach seeks to identify and address barriers that prevent people with disabilities from participating in and benefiting from humanitarian action. The explicit inclusion of people with disabilities as active participants leads to broader benefits for families and communities, and reduces the impacts of crises.

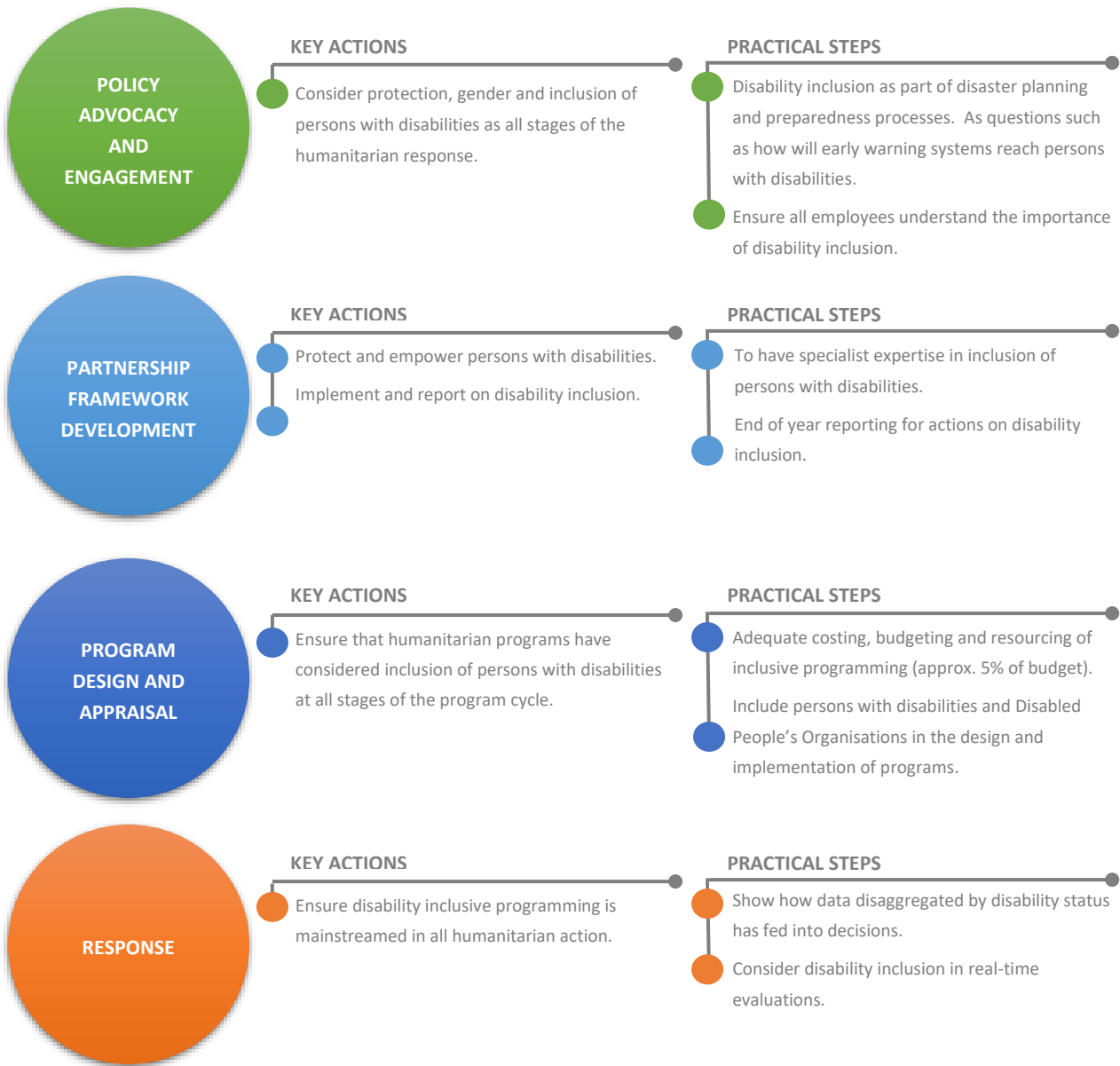
<sup>2</sup> This recommendation for 5 per cent budget allocation is drawn from DFAT's *Performance Assessment Note- Disability-inclusive development*.

<sup>3</sup> The Washington Group (WG) Short Set is a set of questions designed to identify (in a census or survey format) people with a disability or people at greater risk than the general population for participation restrictions due to the presence of difficulties in six core functional domains.

**The following guiding principle in DFAT’s Humanitarian Strategy relates to disability:**

Integrate gender equality and social inclusion in all aspects of our humanitarian action, promote diverse participation in leadership, and ensure the specific needs of vulnerable groups are addressed.

**Summary of key actions and practical steps**



## FURTHER READING AND RESOURCES

### **DFAT Strategy and Policy**

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[Humanitarian Strategy](#)

[DFAT Development for All - Disability Inclusive Development Strategy](#)

### **Best practice, policy and guidance documents**

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[Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#)

[Minimum Standards for Age and Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action, ADCAP](#)

[Guidance Note - Disability Inclusion and Disaster Management, Australian Red Cross](#)

[Inclusive Humanitarian Action: A Study into Humanitarian Partnership Agreement \(HPA\) Agency Practice in the Nepal Earthquake Response](#)

[Washington Short Set Questions on Disability](#)

[Strengthening the Role of Women with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#)

[Minimum Standards for Age and Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action, ADCAP](#)

[Sphere handbook](#)

[The Humanitarian Charter, Sphere Project](#)

[Core Humanitarian Standard](#)

[Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030](#)

[Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#)

### **Training and Resources**

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[Age and Disability Capacity Programme \(ADCAP\)](#)

[DFAT's Disability Inclusive Development Helpdesk](#)

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<sup>1</sup> DFAT 2016, *Humanitarian Strategy*, p. 24, <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/dfat-humanitarian-strategy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> DFAT 2015, *Development for All 2015–2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program*, <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/development-for-all-2015-2020.pdf>