



Global Disability Summit 2022

# PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTING COMMITMENTS



Case study 2

**European Union**

European Union's efforts to strengthen social protection for persons with disabilities

Case study 3

**City of Lyon**

City of Lyon's Communal Accessibility Commission

Case study 5

**Denmark**

Disabled People's Organisations  
Denmark's greater focus on intersectionality

Case study 1

**USAID**

Embedding a disability focus in USAID's education programmes

Case study 4

**Africa, Asia and Latin America**

Strengthening disability inclusion across CBM Global's Humanitarian Programme Cycle



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# FOREWORD

First held in London in July 2018, the Global Disability Summit (GDS) started a movement across the globe. It inspired a number of governments and a variety of stakeholders to reinforce their previous commitments to disability-inclusive development, as well as catalysing new commitments.

The GDS has evolved into a more extensive and organised initiative, extending far beyond its initial scope as a two-day conference. It is now a formalised mechanism and an agent for change in the international development agenda. It has brought the rights and needs of persons with disabilities to the heart of international diplomacy. GDS has also put forward organisations of persons with disabilities as key partners in the promotion of disability rights, including in the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (CRPD) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Governments, UN agencies and the private sector are increasingly recognising the importance of disability inclusion and are expressing their interest and intent in investing in the rights of persons with disabilities. While progress is significant, it requires concerted effort to implement the commitments submitted at the GDS. It is also of paramount importance to monitor progress against commitments as a way to identify trends among stakeholders, to address gaps and to assess the degree to which the GDS is serving its primary mandate – to respond to the needs and demands of persons with disabilities.

To mark the one-year anniversary of the Global Disability Summit 2022 (GDS2022), the GDS Secretariat launched a call to report on the commitments made, through the GDS Online Platform. The findings on progress achieved over the 12 months since the GDS2022 are outlined in this current report. The GDS Secretariat will use these findings to reinforce the post-GDS monitoring exercises and to support the GDS2025 process.

It is hoped the examples of progress showcased in this report will inspire the international development community to continue to realise the full potential of collective action, while reflecting on the gaps that are yet to be addressed.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Global Disability Summit 2022 (GDS2022) has had a positive impact on disability rights and disability inclusion, building on the legacy set by the first Global Disability Summit in 2018. Self-reported data indicates that one-tenth of the 1,412 GDS2022 commitments have been delivered. Delivery of the remaining GDS2022 commitments is also far advanced, with one third of the commitments reported to be at least half complete. Progress towards GDS2022 commitments has prompted greater investment in inclusive education. This progress has also: helped to make routine health services more inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities; created employment opportunities for persons with disabilities; ensured that social protection schemes better target persons with disabilities; and strengthened consideration of persons with disabilities in humanitarian actions.

Alongside the direct impact of GDS2022 commitments, the 2022 summit also indirectly helped to strengthen commitments to disability rights and disability inclusion. GDS2022 prompted a disability rights lens to be applied to two prominent areas of global development and humanitarian action that previously overlooked disability – health and climate change. GDS2022 also pushed new voices and partnerships to commit to strengthening disability inclusion. Given that more stakeholders made commitments at GDS2022 than at GDS2018, the Global Disability Summit would appear to be successfully broadening ‘ownership’ of disability rights.

However, the reporting of Global Disability Summit commitments can be improved. This Progress Report provides only a limited snapshot, relying on self-reported data related to just under a third of all GDS2022 commitments.

Looking ahead, progress towards the implementation of GDS2022 commitments remains ongoing. There is also now a growing focus on GDS2025. Just as GDS2022 progressed the benchmark set by GDS2018, GDS2025 provides a golden opportunity to strengthen disability rights and the focus on disability inclusion even further.

Data presented in this report highlights some of the ways in which GDS2025 can build upon GDS2022. GDS2025 presents an opportunity to increase focus on the thematic areas championed by GDS2022, reinforcing and sharpening the disability lens that has been applied to prominent areas of global development and humanitarian action.

GDS2025 can also challenge key stakeholders to move beyond commitments that focus on revising policies or generating evidence to service delivery, setting ambitious impact targets. Significantly, GDS2025 also may play a key role in consolidating the engagement of stakeholders from GDS2022 (and GDS2018) – further expanding the number and types of stakeholders committed to disability rights and inclusion (e.g., private sector companies and organisations in the development sector that are not specifically disability focused), as well as the partnerships between stakeholders.

Data regarding GDS2022 commitments (including progress towards their implementation) makes it clear that the Global Disability Summit has a substantial and growing impact on disability rights; GDS2025 presents another important stepping stone towards fulfilling disability rights and disability inclusion. This Progress Report, which includes data regarding the delivery of GDS2022 commitments and the challenges GDS2025 needs to address, is intended to help GDS2025 stimulate a greater collective step towards disability rights and disability inclusion.

# INTRODUCTION

The Global Disability Summit 2022 (GDS2022) provided a historic moment for disability inclusion in global development and humanitarian action, expanding upon the legacy set by the first Global Disability Summit in London in 2018 (GDS2018).

GDS2018 inspired unprecedented engagement in disability inclusion and generated commitments that have already and will continue to help deliver Agenda 2030's vision to 'Leave No One Behind', as well as fulfilling existing obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). GDS2022 expanded on the results achieved at GDS2018: further broadening engagement in disability rights and inclusion; generating more commitments than before to disability inclusion; and accelerating progress towards fulfilling disability rights.

GDS2022 was held in February 2022 virtually rather than in person because of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was co-hosted by the International Disability Alliance and the governments of Norway and Ghana. More than 7,000 people from 166 countries took part, including the UN Secretary-General, high-level government representatives, directors of UN agencies and representatives of civil society organisations (CSOs).

More national governments, multilateral agencies, grant-making organisations, private sector companies, CSOs and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) – 196 in total – made commitments at GDS2022 than at GDS2018. The 1,412 GDS2022 commitments focused on five central themes: inclusive education; inclusive health; inclusive livelihoods and social protection; meaningful engagement; and conflict, crisis and climate change. The GDS2022 commitments were broadly spread across the five thematic areas – ranging from 18.76% of all commitments focused on meaningful engagement through to 12.67% of all commitments focused on conflict, crisis and climate change. The greatest proportion (24.78%) of GDS2022 commitments focused on 'overarching' issues, including commitments regarding 'building back better after Covid-19' and gender equality.

The purpose of this report is to review progress towards implementation of commitments made at GDS2022; spotlighting some of the commitments already delivered or still in progress that are relevant to other actors committed to disability rights and highlighting the wider impact of the Global Disability Summit.

The Global Disability Summits will have led to more positive action(s) and impact for persons with disabilities than is recognised in this report. GDS2018 commitments that remain current (e.g., 32 of the 968 commitments made at GDS2018 were to be delivered after 2023)<sup>1</sup> and commitments delivered since publication of [Global Disability](#)

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<sup>1</sup> It is important to note that 410 GDS2018 commitments did not include a concrete timeframe, meaning it is possible that more than 32 commitments are intended to be delivered after 2023.



[Summit: +2 Years progress on implementation of Commitments](#) are outside the scope of this report.

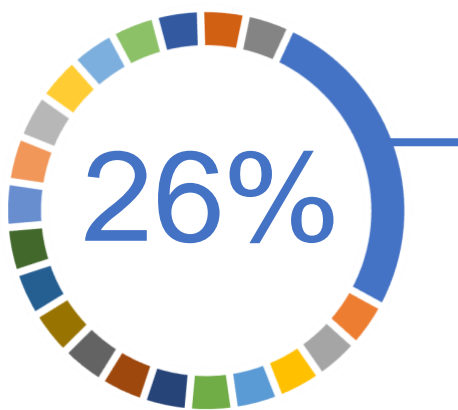
[Global Disability Summit: +2 Years progress on implementation of Commitments](#) found 25% of all GDS2018 commitments had been delivered by 2021; given that 54% (or 526) of all GDS2018 commitments were to be delivered by the end of 2023, many more commitments will have been delivered than will have been credited. No further progress on GDS2018 commitments was submitted during the 2023 reporting period. Progress on delivering some GDS2022 commitments has also not been reported by the stakeholders that made the commitments, meaning progress towards some GDS2022 commitments cannot be acknowledged in this report due to lack of data.

The Summit's [Charter for Change](#) will also have led to positive change that is outside the scope of this report. The Charter for Change is a collective action plan that recognises the need for intensified efforts to deliver disability rights and to generate change for persons with disabilities through delivery of the CRPD and the Sustainable Development Goals. First adopted at GDS2018, the Charter for Change was reaffirmed by GDS2022 participants, who committed to ensuring political will and leadership generated lasting and meaningful change for persons with disabilities.

The commitments and resulting actions that feature in this report are intended to inform and inspire further work to deliver disability rights and strengthen disability inclusion. This report is targeted at actors already focused on disability rights and/or those who are eager to strengthen their focus on disability. The information presented in this report is also expected to help shape planning for the next Global Disability Summit in 2025. This will be the third Global Disability Summit, which the International Disability Alliance are due to co-host with the governments of Germany and Jordan in Berlin on 2-3 April 2025.

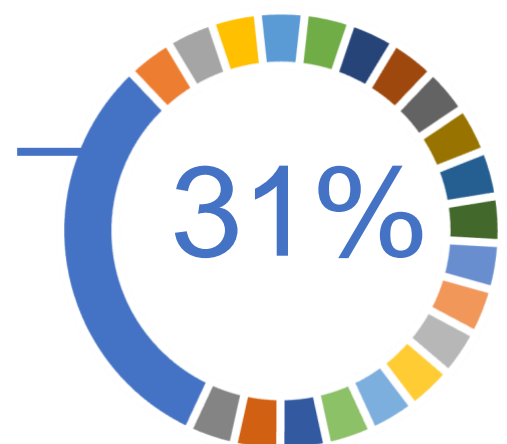
## GDS2022 COMMITMENTS: SUMMARY OF SELF-REPORTED DATA

In February 2023, the GDS Secretariat launched a self-reporting exercise through the GDS [online platform](#) to enable stakeholders that had made at least one commitment at GDS2022 to self-report the progress they had made towards achieving their commitment(s). Stakeholders were asked to select one or more of their GDS2022 commitment(s), provide the status of any progress ('complete', 'on-track', 'delayed', 'not started' or 'will not complete'), estimate a percentage for the extent to which the commitment(s) are complete and provide a short narrative describing progress. The online platform was open for six weeks. This section provides a summary of the data collected through the online platform.



Stakeholders that made a commitment at GDS2022 and that reported progress using the online platform; 50 different stakeholders from the 194 that made a commitment at GDS2022.

GDS2022 commitments with progress reported using the online platform; 434 of 1,412 commitments made at GDS2022. Progress was also reported for four additional commitments (bringing the total commitments reported on to 438).



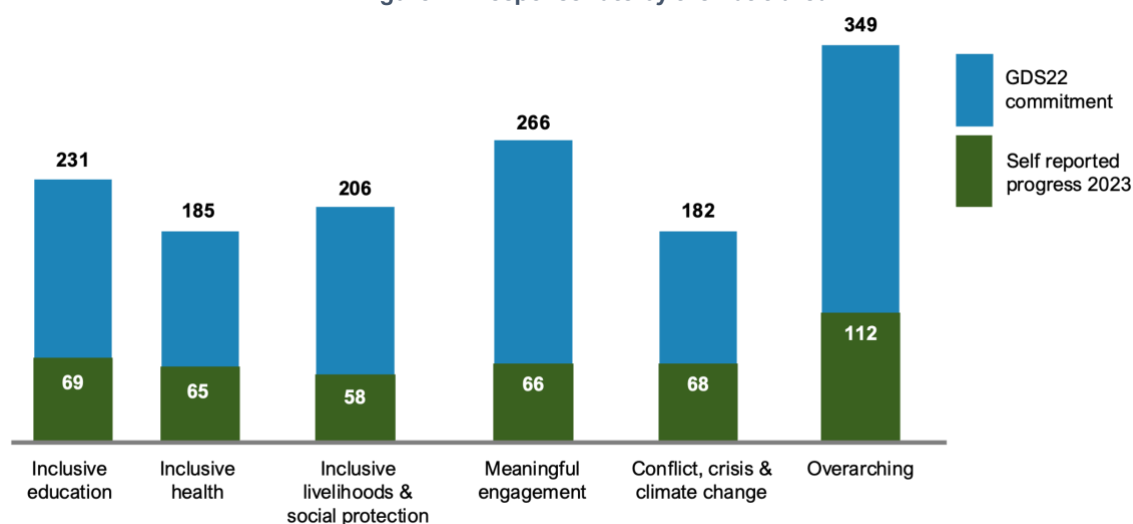
**Table 1** outlines response rate by type of stakeholder, how many commitments were reported on by each type of stakeholder, and the stakeholder's response rate compared to all commitments submitted. The highest reporting rates for commitments have, so far, been by Civil Society Organizations, who reported on 158 commitments, or 35% of all commitments submitted. National Governments reported on 129 commitments (29% of all commitments submitted by National Governments), and multilateral organizations reported on 104 commitments (54% of all commitments submitted by multilateral organizations).

**Table 1: Response rate by stakeholder group**

STAKEHOLDER TYPE	NUMBER OF GDS2022 COMMITMENTS REPORTED ON, by stakeholder type	RESPONSE RATE FOR ALL GDS2022 COMMITMENTS MADE, by stakeholder type
CSO	158	35%
Local authority	13	93%
Multilateral	104	54%
National government	129	29%
OPD	5	4%
Private sector	9	47%
Other	16	84%

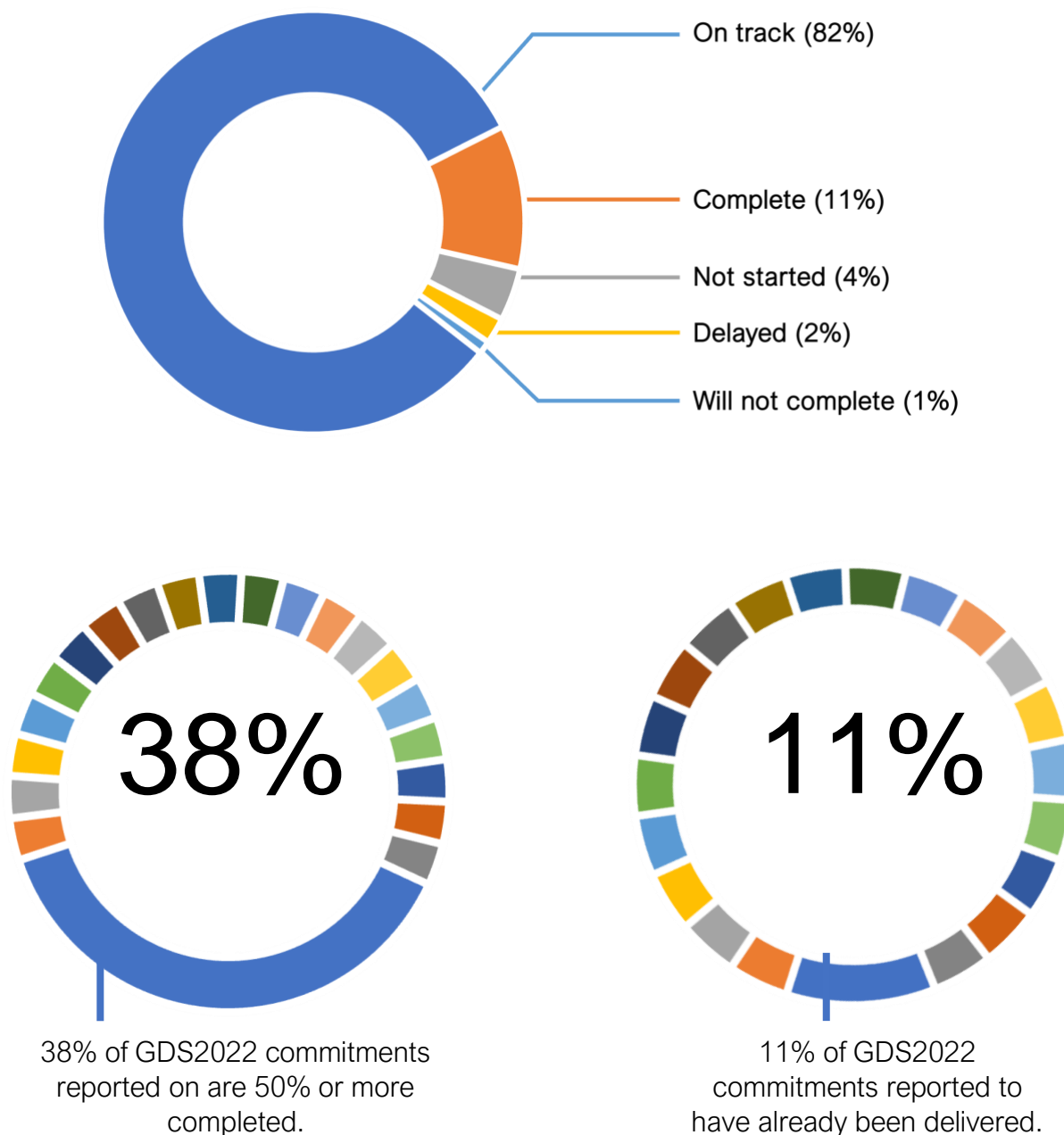
**Figure 1** shows response rate by thematic area, and compares it to the commitments submitted for each thematic area. Overarching commitments were the ones most reported on, closely followed by commitments submitted under the Inclusive Education and Meaningful Engagement of OPDs themes.

**Figure 1 - Response rate by thematic area**



The vast majority of commitments reported on remain 'on-track' for completion (82%). Very small numbers of commitments have 'not started' (4%) or have been 'delayed' (2%). Two commitments were described as 'will not complete'. Overall, 11% were recorded as being complete.

**Figure 2: Summary of self-reported status of progress**



### 3. GDS2022 COMMITMENTS: SELECTED EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS

In the self-reported data, there are details of innovative and groundbreaking activities, initiatives and products that are helping to fulfil disability rights and strengthen disability inclusion. While high-level data on progress towards commitments (see [Section 2](#)) underscores the scale and momentum of GDS2022 commitments, it is the more detailed reports regarding implementation that provide insights and connections of broader relevance to key actors focused on disability rights.

This section focuses on the more detailed reports regarding implementation of GDS2022 commitments, ‘spotlighting’ selected examples of work completed or underway. The aim in spotlighting these specific reports was to underscore the diverse range of approaches that were described by different entities during this round of reporting. Some organisations – for example, the European Union, the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies, MSI Reproductive Choices and Third Sight LLC – were stakeholders that had not made commitments previously.

**Table 2** presents examples of progress made by stakeholders towards multiple GDS2022 commitments by theme.

**Table 2: Examples of progress towards GDS2022 commitments by theme**



#### INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

USAID – the United States Agency for International Development – has supported research to further the evidence base for inclusive education, taken steps to incorporate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) for all learners in all new USAID education programmes and focused on strengthening disability inclusion in pre-primary education, youth workforce development, higher education and education finance.

For more information, see [Case Study 1](#).

The Government of Malawi has made progress against its commitment to collect data on children with disabilities in and out of school by integrating the Washington Group questions into its Education Management Information System (EMIS). The EMIS tools have been revised so that it will now be possible to disaggregate school data by age, gender and type of impairment.

The Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies has updated the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies Minimum Standards to incorporate guidance regarding inclusive education.



## INCLUSIVE HEALTH

In 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) published the Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities;<sup>2</sup> the report outlines actions and recommendations for reducing health inequities for persons with disabilities and to ensure an inclusive health sector through Universal Health Coverage. WHO is now piloting a national strategic planning tool ('Guide for Action') in several countries that will support national efforts to address health inequities for persons with disabilities.

The charity Spoon has fulfilled its commitment to train health workers and caregivers on safe feeding and nutrition practices that meet the unique needs of children with disabilities. They trained professionals and caregivers in 14 countries (Belarus, Croatia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lesotho, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, United States, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

The international non-governmental organisation MSI Reproductive Choices reports that its commitment to work more systematically with OPDs and involve persons with disabilities in decision-making processes around the delivery of sexual and reproductive healthcare is leading to progress around inclusion. MSI Reproductive Choices in Nigeria and Sierra Leone have been working with national umbrella OPDs on awareness raising. In Senegal, community-based nurses are now working in partnership with associations of persons with disabilities to host group discussions around family planning and sexual reproductive health provision.



## INCLUSIVE LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

The European Union has stepped up its support for social protection schemes that are inclusive of persons with disabilities, testing and producing best practices for providing access to social protection for persons with disabilities.

For more information, see [Case Study 2](#).

The global consultancy Development Pathways has developed a Disability Benefits Database to provide an inventory of tax-financed disability benefits in low- and middle-income countries around the world. The database is intended to be an information tool for policy-makers, development partners and donors, to help them strengthen social protection for persons with disabilities.

The international social impact consulting firm Third Sight LLC has updated its recruitment material to ensure persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply for employment opportunities; Third Sight has also been networking with persons with disabilities to build a broader pool of potential collaborators and consultants.

<sup>2</sup> WHO (2022) *Global Report on health equity for persons with disability*. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240063600>



## MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

The United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has published internal guidance on engagement with OPDs to help FCDO staff. An external version of this guidance has also been developed.

The City of Lyon in France has created and strengthened a Communal Accessibility Commission to involve persons with disabilities in the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies.

For more information, see [Case Study 3](#).

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems has been collecting evidence around barriers to political participation experienced by indigenous persons with disabilities, in partnership with the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal and Endorois Indigenous Women Empowerment Network in Kenya. A forthcoming research paper will provide key recommendations alongside good practice examples.



## CONFLICT, CRISIS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is working to strengthen evidence around the impact of climate change on children and young people with disabilities. In February 2023, UNICEF undertook a consultation with young climate activists with disabilities on the draft General Comment on Climate Change and the Rights of the Child. UNICEF shared the outcomes of the consultation with the Committee on the Rights of Child to inform the Committee's final General Comment.<sup>3</sup>

The International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) has worked with the Global Action on Disability Network to strengthen understanding of inclusive safeguarding and how to apply best practice in a programmatic setting. The [IDDC's Inclusive Safeguarding Statement](#) was published in January 2023.

CBM Global, which works alongside people with disabilities, has strengthened consideration of disability across its Humanitarian Programme Cycle, including in all needs assessments, project vetting procedures, monitoring and reporting.

For more information, see [Case Study 4](#).

<sup>3</sup> UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (2023) *General comment no. 26 on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change*. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/general-comments-and-recommendations/general-comment-no-26-2023-childrens-rights-and>



## OVERARCHING

The Washington Group on Disability Statistics has expanded its support for the improved quality and availability of internationally comparable disability statistics. With the support of the German Agency for International Cooperation, the Washington Group has now established two regional disability statistics groups in Africa to help provide technical assistance to National Statistics Offices.

The European Disability Forum monitored use of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Disability Marker by the European Union and published a new report, which closely analyses the European Commission's spending on disability inclusion in global actions from 2018-2020.<sup>4</sup>

Finland's Ministry for Foreign Affairs reports good progress against its commitment to champion disability-inclusive and gender-transformative policies. As President of the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD (2021-2022), they emphasised civil society participation and increasing accessibility throughout the UN system, providing an easy-to-read programme and background notes, as well as a youth delegate speaker.

The remainder of this section presents four case studies that delve into more detail for four examples in Table 2 from:

- USAID,
- the European Union,
- the City of Lyon and
- CBM Global.

<sup>4</sup> OECD-DAC Disability Marker. Available at: <https://www.edf-feph.org/oecd-dac-disability-marker/>



## Case study 1

### Embedding a disability focus in USAID's education programmes

USAID has long been a champion of inclusive education. During GDS2022, the US international development agency promised to expand on its work regarding inclusive education by committing (by 2026) to:

- advance the knowledge base of what works in disability-inclusive education and strengthen the use of disability data for education programming;
- incorporate principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) for all learners in all new USAID education programmes;
- increase USAID initiatives for learners with disabilities in pre-primary education, youth workforce development, higher education and education finance programming;
- continue to provide required knowledge, skills and tools to USAID staff and partners.

USAID's GDS2022 commitments are ambitious. They have broadened USAID's areas of focus in education and pushed USAID staff to expand their expertise. The commitment to incorporate UDL across USAID's education programmes requires USAID to create a foundation of technical support for USAID staff. To achieve this, USAID created practical guidance to help staff incorporate UDL throughout the Programme Cycle, required UDL in funding solicitations for new USAID education programming, and developed a series of clear entry points for UDL in USAID education programming.

Taking steps to increase initiatives for learners with disabilities in pre-primary education, youth workforce development, higher education and education finance programming activities has required USAID to learn about promising inclusive practices throughout the education continuum. These practices have included the publication of a landscape review of disability-inclusive pre-primary education programming to learn from previous efforts and plan for future programming in this area; embedding of disability inclusion as a key topic in USAID's Higher Education Learning Network to spur good practice in disability-inclusive scholarship programming; publication of a White Paper and Roadmap on Financing Disability-Inclusive Education that provides an overview of the state of finance for disability-inclusive education; and publication of a good practice paper on increasing employment and employability for youth with disabilities.

USAID's GDS2022 commitments are advancing inclusion in programming beyond the stated commitments. The GDS2022 commitments have been incorporated into USAID workplans and job descriptions, and USAID developed internal indicators to help track progress on them. The US agency has also signalled the importance of inclusion to

USAID Missions. USAID staff report more USAID colleagues now routinely apply a disability-inclusive lens to their work. USAID staff report finding they no longer need to explain ‘why’ USAID programmes need to be inclusive and apply principles of UDL. Instead, USAID staff report there is now greater internal demand to know ‘how’ with regard to disability inclusion.

Moving forward, USAID is committed to generating more evidence and guidance to help answer questions about ‘how’. Planned activities include a literature review of UDL in programming, evidencing how learners with disabilities best achieve good learning outcomes, and strengthening Universal Design for Assessment to ensure the learning outcomes of inclusive education programmes are better measured.

## Case study 2

### European Union’s efforts to strengthen social protection for persons with disabilities

At GDS2022, the European Union (EU) made commitments regarding inclusive livelihoods and social protection. Specifically, this was designed to:

- further strengthen national social protection systems, [building the inclusion] of persons with disabilities [into] its new generation of international partnership programmes in view of universal social protection for all;
- encourage the formulation in its international partnership of best practice in standardisation of social protection schemes, including persons with disabilities; and
- organise regular structured dialogues during the annual CRPD Conference of State Parties, and in the context of other existing multilateral fora, and enhance cooperation with a focus on accessibility and employment.

The EU has subsequently oriented much of its social protection portfolio towards better coverage for persons with disabilities. By working through existing partnerships, or by forging new alliances, the EU has brought social protection for persons with disabilities higher up the policy agenda of several countries and strengthened the inclusion of persons with disabilities in social protection policies.

At the global level, the EU’s thematic programme on linking social protection with public finance management has strengthened disability data and statistics to assess the social protection needs of persons with disabilities, facilitated inclusion of persons with disabilities in the labour market and helped to design inclusive social protection delivery

mechanisms, disability-inclusive humanitarian responses, as well as community-based rehabilitation and care.

The EU's activities have also had a positive impact at the national level. As the Government of Cambodia continued to strengthen Cambodia's 'Family Package', EU-funded interventions helped to modernise registration and delivery mechanisms resulting in 94,200 additional persons with disabilities accessing the allowance. OPDs in Cambodia also participated in the CSO-Trade Union network, a coordinating body for civil society focused on social protection policy development (including public finance management for social protection).

In the Kyrgyz Republic, a 2022 analysis of the social protection budget helped to identify financing options for higher adequacy and coverage of persons with disabilities. Subsequent changes in the Kyrgyz Republic resulted in a doubling of benefits for children and adults with disabilities; a combination of research, design-thinking training and technical expertise also helped the Kyrgyz Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Migration to improve participation of persons with disabilities in the labour market (including through access to social protection and public employment services).

In Somalia, the SAGAL project has enrolled 5,509 persons with disabilities in a programme to receive regular cash-based social transfers. The SAGAL project has also supported the Federal Government of Somalia to complete a mapping of the social services available to persons with disabilities. The EU's follow-up programme will use learning from the SAGAL project regarding targeting persons with disabilities; disability will remain an important criterion for identification of cash transfer beneficiaries, as well as for the design of targets and indicators in the upcoming programme.

The EU has found that its GDS2022 commitments have created a momentum that can be built upon; the EU helping partner countries to establish social protection floors along the life cycle means support for disability allowances can become a priority focus for future EU interventions. The EU recognises that prioritising benefits for all persons with disabilities, or children with disabilities, can be a rights-based alternative to narrow poverty targeting. In turn, the EU recognises that disability inclusion starts with reliable disaggregated data to identify inequalities and ensure that social protection interventions reach (and/or specifically target) persons with disabilities.

### Case study 3

#### City of Lyon's Communal Accessibility Commission

At GDS2022, the City of Lyon committed to the regular mobilisation and spearheading of a Communal Accessibility Commission that brings together elected officials, city services and OPDs to ensure persons with disabilities and their representative groups contribute to the design, implementation and evaluation of public policies.

The City of Lyon's Communal Accessibility Commission was created in 2007, following a 2005 national law that required every French city with more than 5,000 citizens to create such a Commission to strengthen consultation with and engagement of city residents. Following a 2015 national law that required all public buildings in France to be accessible to persons with disabilities by 2024, the City of Lyon's Communal Accessibility Commission changed from a forum for discussion between officials and residents to a mechanism for implementing and reporting on progress towards improving accessibility for persons with disabilities. The City of Lyon's Communal Accessibility Commission focused not only on the accessibility of public buildings, but also on the accessibility of all public spaces and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all public policies.

The Communal Accessibility Commission now has oversight of the City's Disability Policy Plan (2023-2026); the Plan was developed in consultation with OPDs through the Communal Accessibility Commission. Six sub-groups also currently exist that focus on issues deemed important by the Commission: the City of Lyon's cultural offer for persons with disabilities; digital accessibility; accessibility of public buildings; accessibility of urban infrastructure; sports opportunities for persons with disabilities; car parking for persons with disabilities. The latter group was established after penalty parking fines started to be issued by new cameras that could not identify disability parking permits. The hope was to find a viable solution. A solution proposed for Lyon involved registering car number plates and this has been the subject of exchanges of good practices with the French government, particularly with a view to a nationwide solution to this problem. A further sub-group is planned for 2024, focused on children with disabilities.

Commission meetings are currently presided over by the Deputy Mayor of Lyon; sub-group meetings are currently led by local officials. A change decided by the Deputy Mayor (expected to be from 2024 onwards) is for persons with disabilities to co-Chair meetings of both the Commission and each sub-group.

The influence of the City of Lyon's Communal Accessibility Commission on similar commissions in other French cities is uncertain; commissions operate differently between cities and depending on a city's resources, the city's size and municipal priorities.

In Lyon, it is expected that the Communal Accessibility Commission's focus on disability will continue beyond municipal elections in 2026, when the current Disability Policy Plan is also due to end. The City of Lyon has a strong tradition around disability (e.g., the city was named Europe's most accessible city in 2018) as well as many active OPDs. Both factors are likely to influence the City of Lyon's ongoing focus on disability.

## Case study 4

### Strengthening disability inclusion across CBM Global's Humanitarian Programme Cycle

CBM Global works alongside persons with disabilities in the world's poorest places to fight poverty and exclusion and to transform lives. CBM Global is committed to people-centred inclusive programming; its programmes across Africa, Asia and Latin America are developed and delivered with local partner organisations (e.g., OPDs), to ensure long-term transformation and accountability in communities.

One of CBM Global's GDS2022 commitments was to strengthen disability inclusion in their Humanitarian Programme Cycle, by systematically integrating disability inclusion considerations in all needs assessments, project vetting procedures, monitoring, reporting and programmatic reviews. To help deliver this commitment, CBM Global has developed its Humanitarian Response Toolkit to help Country Teams and partner organisations implement inclusive emergency response programmes in line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. The Humanitarian Response Toolkit is a series of technical tools; for example, the Inclusive Rapid Needs Assessment (iRNA) tool applies an inclusion lens to impact assessments of humanitarian crises on a community/specific location (specifically focusing on persons most at risk and identifying the barriers they face participating in decision-making processes and accessing services).

CBM Global has also started to embed inclusive Real Time Evaluations (iRTE), to review the emergency responses using disability inclusion criteria (such as engagement and participation of OPDs). In 2022 and 2023, these tools were used and applied in CBM Global's responses to the drought in Northern Kenya, the famine in Southern Madagascar and the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh.

CBM Global's delivery of this GDS2022 commitment is ongoing. The CBM team is currently developing an Inclusive Feedback and Complaints Mechanism (iFRM) guide to help CBM Global Teams and partners establish inclusive, accessible and safe feedback channels for all persons at risk of being left behind in humanitarian responses. The iFRM has been tested in Bangladesh and CBM Global will test it more before it is applied at scale across CBM Global's programmes.

CBM Global has found that the iRNA and the iRTE tools help to generate greater awareness of disability inclusion in emergency responses, provide a process through which humanitarian actors can engage OPDs and persons with disabilities (including in programmatic decision-making, quality assurance and accountability), and a way to gather evidence for advocacy for country-level coordination.

Looking ahead, CBM Global plans to also invest more resources in preparedness activities and humanitarian capacity development of OPDs, to ensure that OPDs are more involved in strategic planning ahead of any crises and not only in emergency responses.

## 4. WIDER IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT

Alongside actions and the positive change generated by individual GDS2022 commitments, the Summit itself has had a wider impact on disability rights and inclusion that is important to acknowledge. Like its predecessor GDS2018, GDS2022 focused considerable global attention on disability rights and inclusion, underscoring how important it is that global development and humanitarian action includes persons with disabilities.

GDS2022 served as a key moment for global organisations, persons with disabilities, disability activists and other actors to review unmet challenges regarding disability rights and to bolster an effective global response to strengthen disability inclusion. More specifically, GDS2022 helped to expand both the thematic areas (following consultation with OPDs and persons with disabilities) and actors that use a disability lens.

This section looks in more detail at the wider impact of GDS2022, at the key areas of focus for disability inclusion that became more prominent at GDS2022, new voices and actors that used GDS2022 to express their commitment to disability rights, and the ways in which GDS2022 commitments promised to build and strengthen partnerships between stakeholders.

### 4.1. New thematic areas of focus at GDS2022

Of the five central themes for GDS2022 – inclusive education; inclusive health; inclusive livelihoods and social protection; meaningful engagement; conflict, crisis and climate change – two were not explicitly addressed by GDS2018. By encouraging discussions about and commitments to inclusive health and climate change (as part of a broader focus on conflict and crisis), GDS2022 helped to strengthen the focus on disability inclusion in two prominent areas of global development and humanitarian action.

Health equity and access to quality and affordable healthcare are critical concerns for persons with disabilities of all ages. Access for persons with disabilities to the same routine general healthcare services as the wider population is essential, but persons with disabilities still experience discrimination and exclusion from healthcare services. Health information is inaccessible, barriers in the built environment still exist, and negative and/or ableist attitudes persist among healthcare professionals.

The delivery of the 183 GDS22 commitments focused on **inclusive health** are contributing to an emerging focus on improving the accessibility, acceptability, quality and inclusiveness of health services to persons with disabilities, to ensure persons with disabilities can take full and equal advantage of the same health services and information as persons without disabilities. Given their mandate and recent (and ongoing) work on health equity for persons with disabilities, the **World Health Organization** (see **Table 2**)



leads work in this area. The aid organisation **Humanity & Inclusion** also reported delivering multiple inclusive health programmes (e.g., the FCDO-funded Women's Integrated Sexual Health Project) and developing guidelines, as well as documenting high-impact practices regarding family planning for women and girls with disabilities.

At GDS2022, 179 commitments focused on **conflict, crisis and climate change**; while many of the commitments focused on systemic change that will indirectly strengthen disability inclusion in climate change, 30 of the 179 commitments explicitly focused on strengthening disability inclusion in climate change. In comparison, climate change was not referenced in any GDS2018 commitments. Reporting on progress towards achieving their commitments, **CBM Global** and **Humanity & Inclusion** flagged research they had conducted, separately documenting the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities. The **UN Development Programme (UNDP)** reported undertaking a series of activities to build the capacity of UNDP staff and partners in disability-inclusive climate and disaster resilience and to strengthen UNDP's investments focused on climate change.

The actions and interest in disability inclusion in both health and climate change prompted by GDS2022 have been important. However, further steps are needed to ensure that disability inclusion is routinely considered by health- and climate change-focused organisations, actions and/or investments.

Commitments made outside of the five central themes suggest a growing focus on **mental health**. Five times more GDS2022 commitments (a total of 38) explicitly referenced mental health compared to the seven commitments made in GDS2018. Since GDS2022, important new global standards on mental health have been developed, such as the WHO-Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) guidance on mental health, human rights and legislation<sup>5</sup> and the CRPD Guidance on Deinstitutionalisation.<sup>6</sup>

With increasing international consideration of mental health from a human rights and CRPD perspective, including in political bodies such as the Human Rights Council, and the adoption of the first ever UN General Assembly resolution on mental health and psychosocial support in June 2023,<sup>7</sup> we can anticipate that commitments at the next Global Disability Summit may focus further still on mental health.

**'Intersectionality'** – taking into consideration factors and characteristics other than disability that can intersect with impairments to compound experiences of marginalisation, including gender, gender identity, ethnicity and sexuality – was another emerging area of focus (see [Case Study 5](#)). In total, 67 GDS2022 commitments

<sup>5</sup> WHO/OHCHR (2023) Mental health, human rights and legislation: guidance and practice. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240080737>

<sup>6</sup> OHCHR (2022) Guidelines on deinstitutionalization including in emergencies. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/legal-standards-and-guidelines/crpd5-guidelines-deinstitutionalization-including>

<sup>7</sup> UN General Assembly (2023) Mental health and psychosocial support: resolution / adopted by the General Assembly A/RES/77/300. Available at: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/4014613>

included specific reference to intersectionality. These commitments ranged across all five central themes (in comparison, only four GDS2018 commitments included specific reference to intersectionality). GDS2022 commitments that included specific reference to intersectionality typically involved a commitment to apply an intersectional lens to programme design, capacity building, strategies to address discrimination and/or materials produced.

## Case study 5

### Disabled People's Organisations Denmark's greater focus on intersectionality

At GDS2022, the Disabled People's Organisations Denmark (DPOD) committed to raise issues of diversity, underrepresentation and intersectionality with its 10-12 member organisations engaged in international development cooperation, as well as directly with OPD partners, to strengthen representation of groups facing intersectional discrimination.

DPOD's commitment stemmed from an internal discussion on 'Leave No One Behind' and subsequent recognition that disability-focused organisations cannot focus solely on disability, but must consider broader factors and characteristics (e.g., gender ethnicity, age, geographical location) that interact with disability to compound exclusion and discrimination. While DPOD advocates that persons with disabilities should not be left behind, DPOD reached the conclusion that the principle of Leave No One Behind also points the finger at organisations like DPOD to reflect the heterogeneity of persons with disabilities in its work.

DPOD's discussion of intersectionality with member organisations and OPD partners has primarily been through DPOD's OPD Partnership Fund; helping member organisations and OPDs develop partnership strategies and plans (e.g., LGBTQI+ organisations). DPOD's OPD Partnership Fund receives DKK29 million (close to US\$4 million) annually from Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; DPOD's OPD Partnership Fund typically funds three-year projects up to €1 million (US\$1.04 million).

DPOD has incorporated the GDS2022 commitment into its Strategic Framework 2022-2025, to help prioritise and signal DPOD's focus on intersectionality. DPOD staff report anecdotal evidence that member organisations are starting to consider intersectionality more consistently; they also recognise that DPOD needs to do more to ensure intersectionality is routinely considered by DPOD members and OPD partners. DPOD is exploring partnering with an organisation focused on indigenous people, to deliver joint activities that demonstrate intersectionality.

DPOD staff also report plans to provide tools to help member organisations and OPD partners to routinely consider intersectionality and to adjust DPOD's Results Framework



to ensure data regarding intersectionality is captured and used to guide DPOD's strategic planning.

## 4.2. New voices and stakeholders at GDS2022

There were some notable new voices at GDS2022 – including stakeholders that were not present at GDS2018 – demonstrating broader awareness of and engagement in disability rights.

The **EU** made six significant commitments (including under the central themes: inclusive education; inclusive health; inclusive livelihoods and social protection; situations of conflict, crisis and climate change); their commitment to steadily increase the proportion of new international partnership actions that are disability-inclusive and to track investment using the OECD-DAC Disability Marker has the potential to have a significant impact on development cooperation for persons with disabilities.

Another new voice at GDS2022 was the **Global Greengrants Fund**, a leading actor in supporting grassroots-led actions to protect the environment and rights. The Global Greengrants Fund made three targeted commitments focused on situations of conflict, crisis and climate change and meaningful engagement. This should make much-needed funding available to grassroots groups that are working on issues linking disability rights, intersectionality and environmental justice. The Global Greengrants Fund's commitments should help to stimulate more connectivity between the disability rights movement and other social movements, such as those working on indigenous rights, and women and youth.

**AECID** – the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation – made commitments for the first time (a total of 13). Together, AECID's commitments (under all five central themes and some 'overarching' commitments) represent positive steps towards promoting greater inclusion of persons with disabilities in climate action, education, employment and health. Moreover, AECID's commitments will focus efforts on greater consultation of persons with disabilities throughout the design and implementation of development programmes and help support the diversification of the disability movement.

GDS2022 was the first Global Disability Summit for many CSOs, including **Human Rights Watch**, which made commitments for the first time at a Global Disability Summit (a total of six). At GDS2022, Human Rights Watch made public commitments under the 'overarching' theme, to support greater provision of accessible, community-driven crisis response services; support more political participation of persons with intellectual disabilities; grow their work to support OPDs who are challenging continued use of institutionalisation; and support OPDs who are working to get CRPD-compliant legislation enacted and applied.

### 4.3. Building and strengthening partnerships at GDS2022

Many GDS2022 commitments placed a strong emphasis on **partnerships**, especially in relation to strengthening their engagement with OPDs. The non-profit organisation **FHI360** reported some significant progress in this regard, having taken stock of how the organisation treated OPD relationships in the past. They now partner with 11 international disability-focused organisations and around 32 locally-led OPDs and are continuing to learn what tools, resources and organisational culture are required to establish sustainable, mutual partnerships. Likewise, the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** reports an expansion of its work with OPDs and other informal groups of persons with disabilities. In Bangladesh and Mozambique, IOM has established Disability Community Committees to ensure that persons with disabilities are represented in Internally Displaced Peoples' camps.

**Intersectionality** was a key consideration of partnerships with OPDs for GDS2022 commitments. Several stakeholders committed to prioritise the types of OPDs they partner with, based on an intersectionality lens. Some stakeholders applied an intersectionality lens to the purpose of their partnerships with OPDs, committing to strengthen collaboration between social movements and representative groups. The **International Foundation for Electoral Systems** reported it had begun to partner with two indigenous OPDs representing women with disabilities in Nepal and Kenya. Its team is now collecting intersectional data on the experiences of indigenous peoples with and without disabilities in elections with an expectation of providing practical information to governments and broader civil society on how to effectively engage indigenous persons with disabilities.

**UN Women** reported progress in relation to its commitment to promote the leadership of women and girls with disabilities through strategic partnerships between OPDs and other organisations. UN Women's Arab States Regional Office has been collaborating with the Arab Forum of Women with Disabilities. In Tanzania, UN Women is now working with the Movement of Women with Disabilities.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Significant strides have been made in realising the GDS2022 commitments, with more than 10% already successfully implemented. Over one-third of commitments reported on are at least 50% complete. It is highly likely that greater progress towards implementing GDS2022 commitments has been made than is documented in this report, given that stakeholders only reported progress for a third of all GDS2022 commitments.

Progress towards the implementation of GDS2022 commitments remains ongoing. While the data in this report provides only a snapshot, the findings highlight that GDS2022 commitments have already helped to strengthen disability rights and improve disability inclusion (and/or are in the process of doing so).

GDS2022 commitments have prompted: greater investment in inclusive education; steps to make routine health services more inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities; the creation of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities; social protection schemes to be created to improve targeting of persons with disabilities; and humanitarian actions to improve consideration of persons with disabilities.

While the direct impact of GDS2022 commitments will continue to be felt by persons with disabilities for many years, the impact of GDS2022 extends beyond the delivery of the commitments made. GDS2022 helped to facilitate and bolster discussion on disability inclusion – including in two prominent areas of global development and humanitarian action that broadly overlooked disability. It also engaged new voices and helped to foster exciting new partnerships committed to strengthening disability inclusion.

GDS2022 has helped disability inclusion in global development and humanitarian actions gain momentum and greater focus; the progress made in delivering GDS2022 commitments is both impactful now and relevant to the next Global Disability Summit. Just as GDS2022 built upon GD2018, the next Global Disability Summit can build upon the foundations reinforced by GDS2022.

The next Global Disability Summit in 2025 is an opportunity to strengthen focus on the thematic areas championed by GDS2022, further challenging many stakeholders to move from a policy and evidence focus to a more tangible delivery focus. The next Global Disability Summit also has a role to play in consolidating the engagement of stakeholders from GDS2022 (and GDS2018) and further expanding the number of stakeholders committed to disability rights and inclusion; for example, increasing the participation of private sector companies and organisations in the development sector that are not specifically disability focused.

Finally, the next Global Disability Summit can also encourage and help foster future partnerships, including by using the GDS2022 commitments referenced in this report and documented in full [online](#) as a frame of reference to identify stakeholders' common areas of interest and focus.



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