

The Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa program

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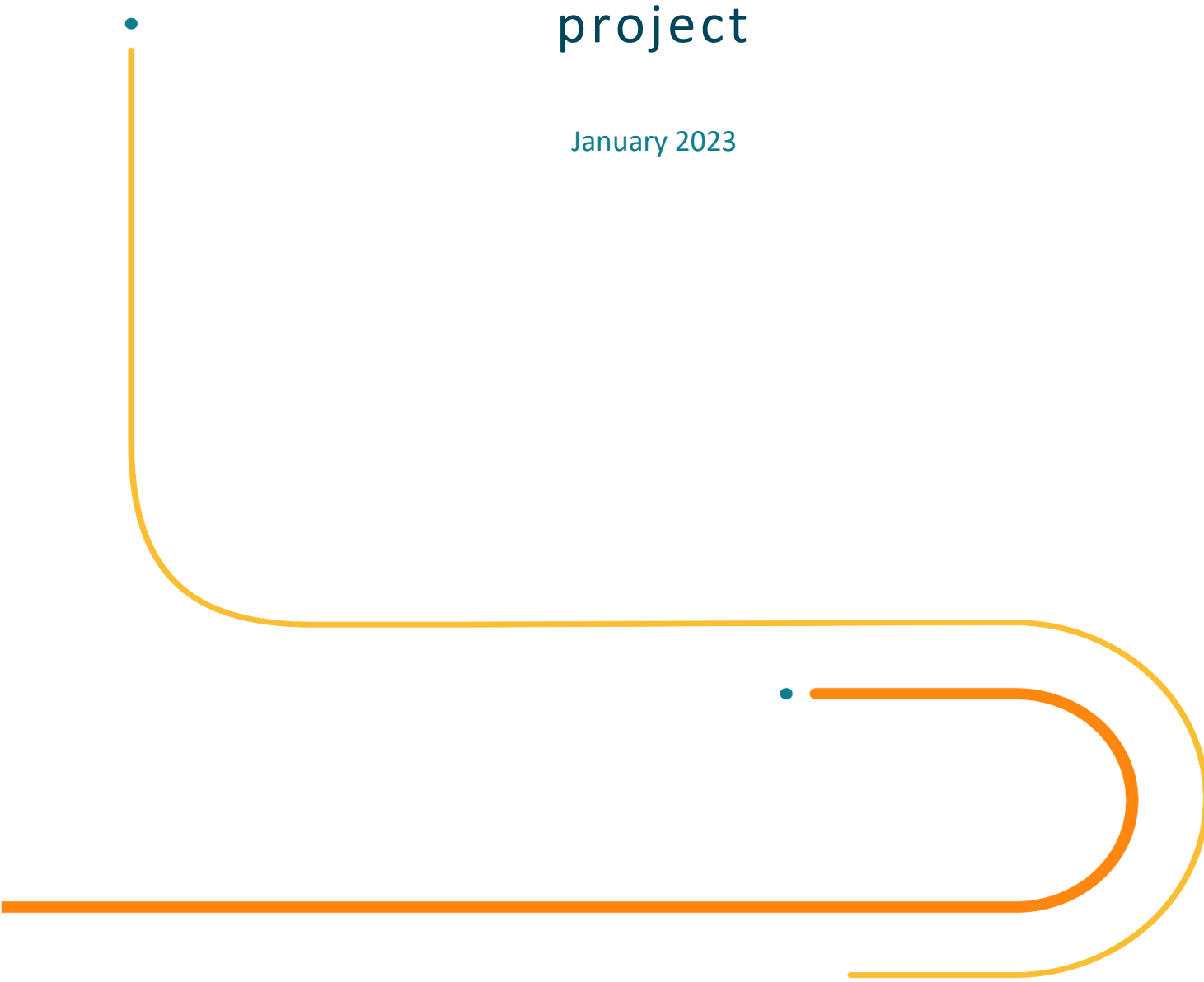




FINAL EVALUATION REPORT

External evaluation of NORAD funded project

January 2023



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GROUPE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa program

The Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa is a program funded by NORAD and implemented by the International Disability Alliance and its members from November 2019 till December 2022 in Sub-Saharan Africa. It is part of a series of initiatives led by IDA in Africa, aiming to guarantee that development efforts in Africa adequately include persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in the frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which offers new political momentum to address disability issues.

The program is built on three pillars: the strengthening of the disability movement in Sub-Saharan Africa; the development of technical capacity amongst the movement; the development of evidence-based action to support advocacy initiatives at local, national, regional and global level.

Objectives and methodology of the external evaluation

The program included an external final evaluation focused on the results achieved, for accountability and learning purposes. IDA mandated the Pluricité Group to conduct this work, based on a proposal submitted mid-2022. The overall purpose of the evaluation was to examine the results achieved as agreed by IDA and NORAD, the processes of change induced by the project, and generate learning on what worked to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups, in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The specific objectives of this evaluation were:

- To review the results achieved
- To identify lessons learnt, good practices and relevant processes for change
- To present recommendations for the possible continuity, sustainability, and scaling/ optimizing the impact of the action in the future.

The evaluation process took place from summer till December 2022, and was organized in three phases:

- An inception phase aimed at defining the methodological framework of the assignment and the analysis of the project by the evaluation team on the basis of interviews and a documentary analysis
- A data collection phase organized around 2 field missions in Kenya and Mozambique and remote interviews. 47 interviews were conducted in total.
- A final phase that led to the drafting of this report and the holding of a participatory workshop with the advisory committee of the evaluation to share the results and validate the final diagnosis.

Summary of the key findings

Our evaluation concludes that the initial objectives of the program have been achieved overall, and that the planned activities have been effectively carried out, despite the health context linked to the COVID 19 crisis, which led to an adaptation of some of the activities (validated by NORAD in 2020).

The three years of the program saw a clear strengthening of the disability movement in Sub-Saharan Africa, marked by the emergence of many new representative organizations, and the strong structuring of the African Disability Forum, which has become a central actor in the fight for disability rights in the region. This dynamic has been inclusive of groups previously not very present in the movement, such as women with disabilities, indigenous groups, youth, people with deafblindness or with intellectual disabilities. It is one of the crucial achievements of the program to have succeeded in making the voice of these underrepresented groups heard, in a context still not very favorable to their political and social participation. Moreover, the program has allowed the disability

movement to position itself in many countries as a key player in the advocacy for the effective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. All these results were coherent with IDA's and its members pluri-annual strategy.

The evaluation also highlights the efficiency of the program and IDA's ability to mobilize the financial, substantive/technical, logistical, and human resources necessary to achieve its objectives in a relevant and appropriate manner.

Challenges and recommendations

Precisions on the recommendations

The proposed recommendations are based on the findings of the evaluation and the resulting cross-sectional analysis. They are part of the work expected of an external and objective evaluation. However, they must be discussed, prioritized and implemented by IDA and its partners. Some of the proposed solutions may be discarded or, on the contrary, further developed and implemented according to their relevance to the organization's strategic priorities and their feasibility in the short, medium or long term. They should allow for a constructive dialogue, with a debate on the recommendations proposed by our team, and a final co-construction and validation at the internal level of the recommendations that will be retained.

The geographical area covered by the program is one of the regions most affected by crises of various kinds. Beyond the impacts of the health crisis, a majority of countries are facing immense challenges in access to food, the fight against terrorism, global warming or extreme poverty. People with disabilities are at the forefront of these crises. In this context and in connection with many other movements, the disability movement supported by IDA through NORAD funding contributes to the fight against inequalities and extreme poverty. However, there are many challenges to overcome, including the ability to maintain a long-term advocacy dynamic, while the activists themselves face daily survival issues. The NORAD-funded program has been successful in this sense, providing resources over a relatively long period of time and adapting to the needs of local, national and regional organizations. One of the challenges for IDA and its members will be to continue to be able to mobilize such support over the long term.

Another challenge lies in the geographical coverage of the actions carried out, particularly in certain sub-regions, including Central Africa and the Portuguese-speaking countries, which are still poorly represented within the movement, despite the initial progress made with the program.

In addition, this report proposes a set of recommendations related to the development and strengthening of certain actions, including the Fellowship program - particularly relevant and recognized by Disabled People Organizations - and the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training cycles. It also emphasizes the long-term issues related to the support of field initiatives after the training, workshops and fellowship periods. At the regional level, we propose various perspectives of action related to capacity building and support to African Disability Forum, so that it can confirm its status as a regional leader and its anchorage within the rights-based movement.

The evaluation team would like to thank the IDA members and secretariat for its support during this mission and the rich exchanges around the program. We would also like to warmly thank all the people who agreed to answer our (many!) questions during the interviews, for their availability and their frankness. It is our hope that this report will be a useful resource for the disability movement in Africa in its struggle for rights.

1. Description of project

1.1. General context of the project

In Africa and around the world, people with disabilities are often socially, physically, and economically excluded from many community and political spaces of power and influence. This exclusion and other forms of marginalization are exacerbated in areas affected by social, health, economic and climate crises which are illuminated in many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. OPDs in the region are operating with very few resources and staffing which limits their capacity to organize and coordinate their political advocacy work and support the livelihoods of people with disabilities in their communities. However, a critical mass of national activists with disabilities is growing across African countries and are building their technical skills and capacity to effectively engage in advocating for their rights and advise reforms of policy, laws and development programs and to monitor progress. This growth has been accelerated by the **Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa** program carried out by IDA and its members and supported by NORAD since 2019.

Varying levels of challenges, barriers and opportunities exist for people with disabilities in the region, depending on their country's laws on disability inclusion. This context determines their starting point for advocacy and inclusion. Moreover, there are different challenges and barriers facing people with different disabilities. For example, the challenges facing people with psycho-social disabilities may not be the same as the challenges and barriers experienced by people who are blind, and many individuals have more than one type of disability. The predominance of the medical and charity models of disability are problematic for the progressive realization of the SDGs in line with the CRPD and inclusion of people with disabilities in various sectors. According to program participants and previous research, these models comprise the primary paradigm through which disability is understood in most societies in Sub-Saharan Africa. OPDs in the region are actively working toward greater societal and political recognition of the human rights model of disability. This model is based in principles to increase respect for the inherent dignity and freedom of people with disabilities, promote full and effective participation in society, respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity, increase accessibility, gender equality, and respect for the evolving capacities of children and youth with disabilities to preserve their identities. The Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa program has been ideologically and practically realizing by these principles over the past three years.

1.1 General background of the project

» Overall context

Persons with disabilities experience widespread exclusion and violation of their human rights, with some groups more excluded than others. Currently, the majority of the one billion people with disabilities around the world are excluded from equal participation by social, attitudinal, communicational, environmental, financial and legal barriers, and this has resulted in serious violations of rights, deprivation of dignity, and impoverished living conditions.

In Africa, this is further compounded by discriminatory attitudes and cultural beliefs and practices, as well as entrenched poverty. The major issues for persons with disabilities and their families, as identified in 2017 by 63% of members of the African Disability Forum (ADF), is access to income through employment/self-employment. Inaccessible infrastructure and information and communication systems and technologies; access to health services and education; as well as lack of inclusion in humanitarian responses are also identified as key issues by African organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) (ADF 2017 consultation to develop their strategic framework 2018-2023). Despite the increase in general disability awareness, especially since the adoption of the

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), including ratification by most African governments, progress in advancing the CRPD obligations is still very slow. In education, for example, the gap in primary completion rates between children with and without disabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa has increased over time, reaching 13 points for boys and 10 points for girls (World Bank, 2018). Concerns of underrepresented groups within the disability movement – such as women, youth, people with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, deafblind persons, and indigenous peoples - remain barely considered, and therefore these groups are at higher risk of being excluded from development efforts and outcomes.

» Project's general background

The Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa program is part of a series of initiatives led by IDA in Africa, aiming to advance the human rights of persons with disabilities through the structuring of a united network of OPDs at local, national and regional levels. Thus, the project aims at guaranteeing that development efforts in Africa adequately include persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, in the frame of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which offers new political momentum to address disability issues.

The program effectively started in November 2019 and was carried out until December 2022 by IDA and 6 of its members directly involved in program implementation. IDA Members directly involved in program implementation included African Disability Forum (ADF), Down Syndrome International (DSI), Inclusion International (II), World Blind Union (WBU), World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP), and World Federation of Deafblind (WFDB). The program was funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) with an overall budget of 40,000,000 Norwegian Kroner (\$4,540,000 USD).

The program combines a strong focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and national level interventions, while also building connections with regional and global levels as critical levers for action to support civil society to play an effective role and implement a comprehensive accountability strategy. At a national level, the project targeted the following countries: Kenya, Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Angola, Rwanda, Uganda, Nigeria, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania.

1.2 IDA and NORAD short presentation

1.2.1 International Disability Alliance

Established in 1999 and legally incorporated in 2013, IDA is a network of 8 global and 6 regional OPDs¹, representing many of the estimated one billion persons with disabilities worldwide, through over 1 100 OPDs.

Thus, IDA plays a particular role and has a specific status among the international actors involved in access to rights and social participation of people with disabilities. IDA is not a classical independent NGO but an alliance of associations and organizations, which are the decision-makers within the governance bodies. IDA members are not service providers, but self-representative organizations, whose objective is the recognition and implementation of rights, through mobilization, capacity building and advocacy work.

¹ African Disability Forum; Arab Organisation of Persons with Disabilities; ASEAN Disability Forum; Down Syndrome International; European Disability Forum; Inclusion International; International Federation of Hard of Hearing People; International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus; Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organisations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families; Pacific Disability Forum, World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf; World Federation of the Deaf-Blind; and World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.

1.2.2 Norwegian agency for development cooperation

NORAD is the Norwegian agency for development cooperation, a professional body under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its objectives and actions are oriented around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Indeed, the NORAD's new strategy towards 2030 identifies 5 priorities:

1. Invest more strategically.
2. Be a key partner in sustainable development.
3. Contribute to a greener world.
4. Be a champion of innovation within development cooperation.
5. Strengthen and systematize the development, sharing and use of knowledge within NORAD.

To achieve its goals, NORAD invests strategically in cooperation with its partners, through various grants programs.

In its strategy, NORAD points to the specific challenges related to extreme poverty in Africa, noting that the situation in sub-Saharan Africa remains extremely precarious compared to developments in other regions. More than half of the world's poorest people live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

1.3 Origin of the project, overall purpose, scope and project design

1.3.1 Origin of the project

The program was developed in a concerted manner with all IDA members: an internal consultation was organized in 2017 prior to the application to NORAD, involving all 14 members of the Alliance, each of which consulted its own members present in Africa. Six IDA members (ADF, II, DSI, WBU, WFDB, WNUSP) submitted proposals for contributions, before a pooling and a strategic reflection to establish a common intervention program, in line with the objectives of the IDA strategic framework (add elements).

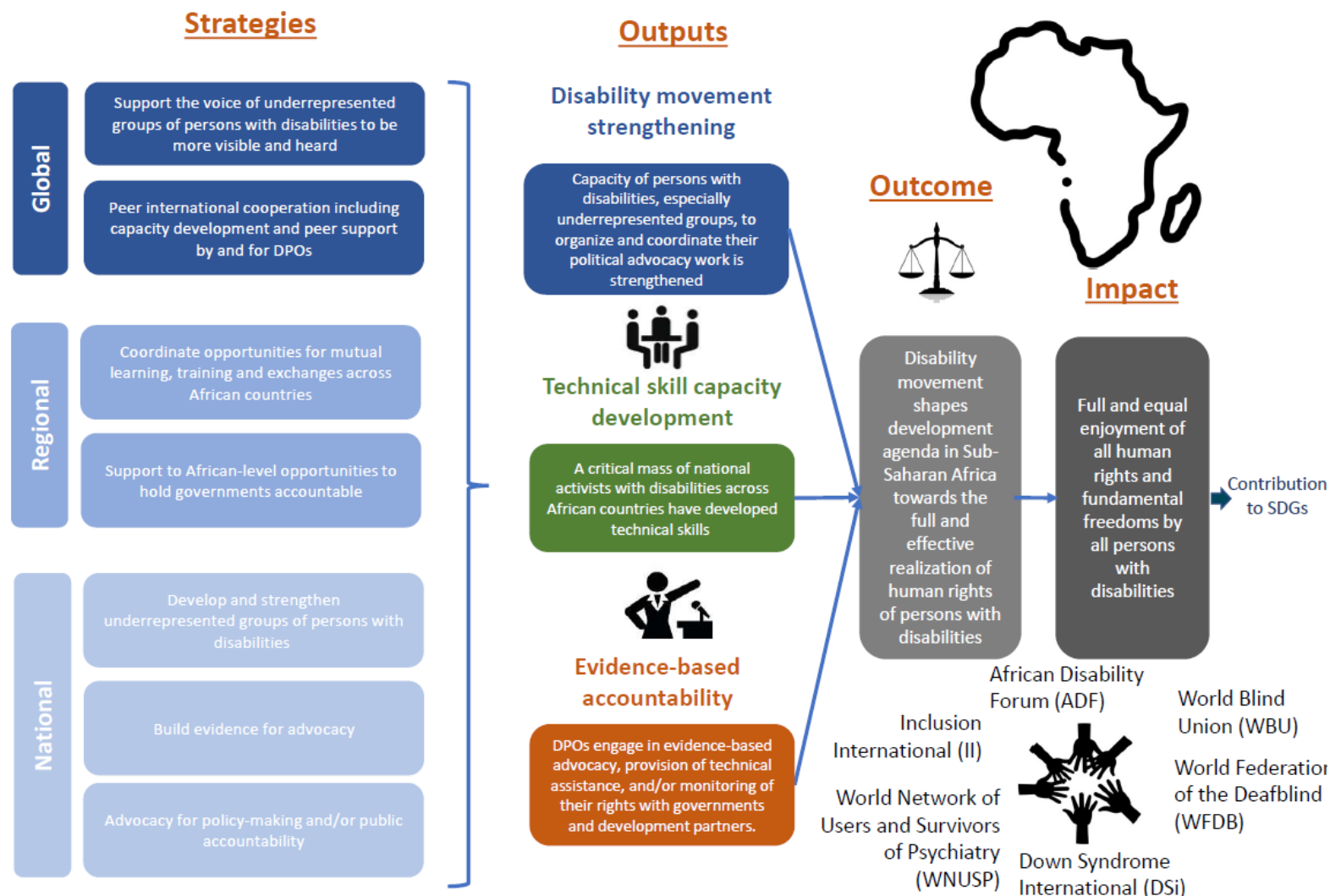
1.3.2 Main objectives

The overall objective of the project is to ensure that policies, programs and investments necessary to realize the human rights of persons with disabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa are developed, implemented and monitored with clear and evidence-based guidance and participation from persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups, through their representative organizations.

The proposed intervention articulates 1 key outcome and 3 outputs:

- **Outcome 1** - The influence of the disability rights movement to shape the development agenda in Sub-Saharan Africa towards the full and effective realization of human rights of persons with disabilities has increased.
- **Output 1 - DISABILITY MOVEMENT STRENGTHENING** - Capacity of persons with disabilities, especially underrepresented groups, to organize and coordinate their political advocacy work is strengthened
- **Output 2 - TECHNICAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT** – A critical mass of national activists with disabilities have developed technical skills to effectively engage in advocating for their rights and advise reforms of policy, laws and development programs and to monitor progress
- **Output 3 - EVIDENCE-BASED ACTION** – OPDs engage in evidence-based advocacy, provision of technical assistance, and/or monitoring of their rights with governments and development partners.

Based on the information provided, we drafted a simplified preliminary Theory of Change diagram (detailed version in the methodology section).



The NORAD'S funded project thus aims at the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups.

	National Level	Regional level	Global level
OUTPUT 1 Disability Movement strengthening	1. Support the development of self-advocacy groups for people with Down Syndrome in Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda (DSi) 2. Organise trainings of self-advocates (by self-advocates) and training events for supporters of persons with intellectual disabilities in Rwanda, Ethiopia and Nigeria (II) 3. Provide technical and country level coordination support to the Empower Us initiative to growing self-advocacy in Africa, through advice and support to self-advocates, their families and supporters and the organisations they work with (II in collaboration with DSI)	4. Coordinate the development of strategic priorities of persons with psychosocial disabilities in Africa through a regional workshop (WNUSP) 5. Analyse and document through a report lessons from at least 4 country experiences in developing self-advocacy by persons with Down Syndrome and intellectual disabilities (DSi) 6. Support coordination of women with disabilities from Africa to identify common priority issues , building on earlier consultations held in different African sub-regions and linking with IDA's ongoing Women with Disabilities Flagship Initiative (IDA and members)	7. Ensure continuity in democratic representation and coordination of the voices and advocacy from persons with deafblindness , including through organizing the 12 th Helen Keller Conference (WFDB) 8. Hold an end-of-project workshop to review project outcomes and learning from peer support strategies
OUTPUT 2 Technical capacity development	1. Provide peer training on CRPD and SDGs to persons with psychosocial disabilities to develop their capacities to advocate within a human rights framework – in Nigeria and Malawi (WNUSP) 2. Provide initial human rights training for DSI national member organisations from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Nigeria (DSi) 3. Provide country capacity training (including webinars and study visits) by the regional African team of the Catalyst for Inclusive Education in Rwanda, Ethiopia and Ghana (II) 4. Provide mentoring and technical assistance to African OPDs reporting under the CRPD, Treaty Bodies or other human rights monitoring mechanisms (e.g. UPR) , including through country workshops as relevant. Although the calendar of reporting countries is not established long in advance, some countries are foreseen to report under the CRPD (see Project proposal)	5. Conduct 3 cycles of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative in French, English and Portuguese speaking African countries to train national activists to leverage public policy mechanisms (including budgeting, data collection, etc.) to advance the realization of the CRPD at national level (ADF). 6. Support the involvement of African activists with disabilities in the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training of Trainers process 7. Develop and deliver a training module on the Marrakesh Treaty to accelerate its ratification and implementation in Africa, a. Develop and deliver a training module on the intersection between gender and disability , b. Develop and organize 4 webinars for national members of the Pan African Network of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities on key priorities	
OUTPUT 3	1. Collect good practices on realization of CRPD articles 12, 13, 19 and 25 for persons with psychosocial disabilities in countries members of the Pan African Network of Persons	7. Advocate, provide technical assistance and/or monitor commitments from prominent African stakeholders and decision-makers during the	9. Produce and disseminate a new version of the Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness including good

EVIDENCE BASED ACCOUNTABILITY	with Psychosocial Disabilities (see countries list in the proposal) - Support national OPDs to run advocacy campaigns to advance the ratification and/or implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty in Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Nigeria (WBU) - Develop resources for families on access to education and to engage in advocacy to improve realization of SDG 4 through inclusive quality equitable education Rwanda, Ethiopia and Ghana and support self-advocates to identify issues relating to access to employment and to engage in advocacy to improve realization of SDG 8 in Uganda, Nigeria Kenya and Rwanda (DSi) Train and mobilize international development partners to address priorities of persons with deafblindness through their projects in 9 countries (see proposal) Monitor national progress in realizing the CRPD through developing parallel report and engaging with international human rights mechanisms with mentoring support; this may include as relevant monitoring of commitments from the Global Disability Summit 2018 (IDA and members) - Conduct country visits to monitor the enforcement of Concluding Observations from at least 2 African countries who reported earlier on the CRPD (IDA and members)	period to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities are included, e.g.: SDG African regional forum, regional conference on mental health, advancing the ratification and enforcement of the African Disability Protocol, monitoring of Beijing +25 Global Platform outcomes from the perspective of women with disabilities (through African CSO group) and the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANRI) (IDA and members) Develop/ consolidate the basis of evidence available to monitor progress in achieving the SDGs from a CRPD perspective in Africa (ADF and IDA members)	practices and recommendations to operationalize the priorities of the initial report (WFBD) - Review, analyze innovating approaches and practices of donor agencies who have invested in the disability rights movement in international cooperation and draw recommendations for donors' investment in building capacities of OPDs from the Global South – overcoming the traditional barriers that smaller OPDs face in accessing grants; disseminate and promote best practices through the GLAD network (EDF, IDA) - Use international monitoring mechanisms on the SDGs (HLPF, Regional African SDG Forum with UN ECA) to reflect on progress for persons with disabilities in Africa (IDA and members) - Coordinate with other recipients of NORAD grants to optimize complementarities of strategies towards meaningful OPD engagement in inclusive development in Africa (IDA)
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1.3.1 Target beneficiaries and partners

» Partners

The project has been implemented initially with 6 IDA members. In addition to the African Disability Forum (ADF) as main partner, Down Syndrome International (DSi), Inclusion International (II), the World Blind Union (WBU), the World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB) and the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP) received the most financial support. From 2020, the project included 2 new members (IFHOH and WFD). All 8 members have members in Sub-Saharan Africa, including at regional and country levels, and were already engaged in activities to strengthen the capacities and advocacy of their members.

Partners	General description	Initial interest in the project and links with strategies
African Disability Forum (ADF)	ADF is the continental membership organization of Disabled Persons' Organizations (OPDs) in Africa. Formally established in 2014, ADF seeks to strengthen and unify the representative voices of Africans with disabilities, their families and organizations. ADF includes and builds upon existing organizations, networks, capacities and successes. ADF does not replace any existing continental or sub-regional organization but invites all to be ADF members. ADF strives to be inclusive and to engage and reflect the views of all existing pan-African, sub-regional and national federations of OPDs.	The project links with ADF strategic framework 2018-2023, particularly on objectives 1 (Advocacy and rights promotion), 2 (Capacity development), 3 (Inclusive development), 4 (Gender equality) and 6 (Partnerships). Through the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative, ADF will build the capacities of advocates with disabilities (in French, English and Portuguese) to effectively influence development in Africa, building on earlier phases (regional Bridge CRPD-SDGs East-West Anglophone Africa, national Bridge CRPD-SDGs Uganda & Tanzania). ADF will play a key role in strategizing advocacy at the regional level with other IDA members.
Down Syndrome International (DSi)	DSi is a UK based international disabled people's organization, comprising a membership of individuals and organizations from all over the world, committed to improving quality of life for people with Down syndrome, promoting their right to be included on a full and equal basis with others.	Closely connected to the proposed role of II, DSi will play a role in supporting the formation and active involvement of groups of self-advocates and support these groups to engage in advocacy. This work builds on the model initiated by DSi in Turkey which expansion and adaptation is currently piloted in Nigeria, Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates.
Inclusion International (II)	Inclusion International is the international network of people with intellectual disabilities and their families, advocating for their rights and inclusion worldwide. For over 50 years Inclusion International has been committed to the promotion of these human rights. In 2020, the organization represents over 200 member federations in 115 countries throughout five regions, including the Middle East and North Africa, Europe, Africa, the Americas, and Asia Pacific.	The project builds on and expands the Empower Us initiative aimed at developing self-advocacy and support to persons with intellectual disabilities to empower themselves. It also prolongs in Africa the strategic efforts initiated through the Catalyst for Inclusive Education, acknowledging the specific challenges faced by children with intellectual disabilities to access education in environments that do not contribute to segregation and isolation.
World Blind Union (WBU)	WBU is the internationally recognized organization, representing the 253 million blind and partially sighted persons in 190 member countries. WBU aims at being the voice of the blind, speaking to governments and international bodies on issues concerning blindness and low vision in conjunction with its members. WBU brings together all the major national and international organizations of blind persons and those organizations providing services to people with low vision to work on the issues	Following the entry into force of the Marrakech Treaty in 2016, WBU identified that African countries still lag behind with the ratification and domestication of this Treaty, which facilitates access to books and published works for persons with disabilities, and therefore enables access to information, education and the

	affecting the quality of life for blind people. Globally, WBU is divided into six regions, with each region having its own President and volunteer executive team to assist the needs of the local members.	realization of other human rights. The project will support OPDs to advance the ratification and domestication of the Marrakech Treaty in Africa.
World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB)	WFDB is a global non-governmental advocacy organization by and for persons with deafblindness, aiming to improve the quality of life and protect the rights of this distinct disability group. WFDB was established in 2001 and consists today of 75 national and associated member organizations from 62 different countries from all corners of the world. Relationships have been established with The World Blind Union (WBU), The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), Deafblind International (DbI) and The World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI). In 2007 the organization attained consultative status at the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is a member of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) where the WFDB President serves as a member of the board. since early 2020 the WFDB has had 3 full-time staff members supporting the organization on various projects as well as acting as a secretariat for the WFDB President.	The project fully integrates the strategic priorities defined by WFDB to pursue the action supported in the period 2017-2019 by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It sustains and builds on the results secured through the release of the first-ever Global report on the situation of persons with deafblindness by developing further evidence on how to enact the recommendations of the report, including through including priorities of persons with deafblindness into international development partners' programming.
World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP)	WNUSP is a global forum and voice of users and survivors of psychiatry, to promote our rights and interests. WNUSP brings together member organizations and individuals from Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and North, Central and South America. WNUSP members are persons, and organizations of persons, who identify themselves as users, ex-users and/or survivors, as persons with lived experience of madness / mental health problems / psychosocial disabilities and/or have used or survived psychiatry / mental health services. WNUSP advocates for the human rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities worldwide. WNUSPs activities mainly comprises human rights advocacy at the global international level. WNUSP has ECOSOC consultancy status at the United Nations, and since the start of negotiations of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, WNUSP has been involved in this process.	WNUSP is currently restructuring its African branch into a Pan-African Network of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities (PANPPD). The project will support strategic planning and development of common training and advocacy resources on issues prioritized by persons with psychosocial disabilities in Africa, such as legal capacity, access to justice and being included in the community. Such issues emerged from earlier participatory training workshops held in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda, which will be replicated in Nigeria and Malawi.

» Beneficiaries

The project aims at improving the rights and social participation of persons with disabilities living in sub-Saharan Africa. 10 countries were particularly targeted: Kenya, Ivory Coast, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Angola, Rwanda, Uganda, Nigeria, Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania. Somalia, Ethiopia, Benin, Niger, Zimbabwe were additional target countries, to connect with the interventions from the Atlas Alliance or HI.

The project pays a specific attention to underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities. These include but are not limited to women and girls with disabilities, persons with deafblindness, persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and other groups - such as persons with albinism, indigenous persons with disabilities, youth with disabilities.

The specific attention given to these groups is done at two levels within the project: on the one hand, to strengthen the political role and interventions of these groups within the disability movement in Africa, and to remove barriers to their participation; on the other hand, to ensure that representatives from underrepresented groups develop their technical skills to effectively engage in advocating for their rights and advise reforms of policy, laws and development programs and to monitor progress.

1.4 Governance and main stakeholders of the project

IDA has set up a tailored support project management level for its members within its Secretariat, which comprises the MEAL Officer, Operational and Finance Manager, and Program Manager.

The governance of the project relies heavily on the African Disability Forum (ADF), which is the continental member of organizations of persons with disabilities in Africa. Established in 2014, ADF seeks to strengthen and unify the representative concerns of Africans with disabilities, their families and organizations. It was expected that ADF coordinates its activities implemented within the project with the African chapters of the IDA global Members. One of the key objectives of the project is to strengthen the capacity of ADF and its sub-regional members (West African Federation of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities – WAFOD) in strategic planning, coordination of actions, technical support to its members, inclusion and support to underrepresented groups organizations, and the establishment of partnerships at national, regional and global levels. This is in line with the ADF operational strategy which aims at implementing ADF projects through its sub-regional members.

1.5 Timeline and key milestones of the project

The program effectively started in November 2019 and has been carried out until December 2022.

From the very first months of the project, the Covid 19 crisis forced all the stakeholders to modify some activities and postpone or cancel others.

For instance, in March 2020, IDA and its members had to postpone a major series of events in Nairobi (Kenya), including training and peer-to-peer workshops on a variety of topics such as social protection, the Marrakesh Treaty, the CRPD, and a national Bridge CRPD-SDGs training module. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced IDA and its members to reconsider a wide range of in-persons activities (such as trainings, conferences and workshops) to (a) take place virtually (through either webinars or the development of online courses platform to host training sessions, materials and resources) or (b) when online activities do not represent a feasible alternative, to be postponed until further notice and conditioned to the improvement of the situation and consequent removal of travel bans.

A reviewed Results framework was developed by IDA in May 2020 and presented to NORAD with specific adaptations linked with the crisis.

Despite this unexpected situation, the results and achievements presented below show that IDA and IDA members succeeded in adapting their ways of intervention in order to stay on course and deliver the key activities as planned originally.

One of the strategic choices that made it possible to achieve these objectives was to concentrate multiple activities in the form of "festivals of events," as was the case in Kenya and Mozambique. Beyond the logistical advantages, this organizational modality also helped strengthen interpersonal and inter-organizational ties by bringing together events specific to certain themes or groups.

2. Stakes and scope of the evaluation

2.1. Expectations of the evaluation

2.1.1. Purpose and use

The project started in November 2019 and initially planned two evaluations, one at mid-term on the analysis of the implementation of the project until August 2021, and a second one to be carried out before December 2022. It was decided at the end of the first year of the project implementation to combine the two evaluations into one focused on the results achieved, **for accountability and learning purposes**. The table below includes two columns and three rows with a header for purposes in one column and Goals in the second column. The second row includes goals for the purpose of accountability and the third row includes the goals for the purpose of learning.

Key purposes	Goals
Accountability	• Analyse the capacity and contribution of the grantee (IDA) to achieve the expected results and outputs, in accordance with the Grant Agreement, the result framework, and the allocated budget (coherence, effectiveness, and efficiency of activities), so to inform the donor and other stakeholders. • The obtained results shall be analysed in the wider context of IDA's and NORAD's actions for the enhancement of disability rights in Africa, as well as of other actors and contextual factors, to provide a comprehensive analysis of the capacity of the grantee to generate positive change for the target group(s).
Learning	• Identify good practices on which to potentially build the sustainability and continuity of the interventions, possibly leading to scaling up and/or replicating activities (relevance, impact, and sustainability). • Likewise, points for improvement and/or evidence gaps shall be detected to impulse (self)-reflection by the involved actors on the implemented activities and on the obtained results, thus potentially leading to new, upgraded interventions for upholding disability rights and enhancing inclusion of persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups, such as persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities and persons with deafblindness in Sub-Saharan Africa.

2.1.2. Objective

The overall purpose of the evaluation is to examine the results achieved as agreed by IDA and NORAD, the processes of change induced by the project, and generate learning on what worked to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups, in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The specific objectives are:

- To review the results achieved
- To identify lessons learnt, good practices and relevant processes for change
- To present recommendations for the possible continuity, sustainability, and scaling/ optimizing the impact of the action in the future.

2.1.3. Users

The primary intended users of the evaluation are IDA, IDA members and their members in Africa, and NORAD. The evaluation is also intended to inform IDA's Board, staff, and other development partners (such as other disability partners of NORAD in Africa).

2.1.4. Perimeter

In terms of scope, the evaluation covers the entire project studied, both in terms of duration and geographical and technical scope. The table below includes 2 columns and 4 rows. The first header row indicates the fields covered by the evaluation. The second to fourth rows are about duration, geographic scope and technical scope, respectively.

Fields covered by the evaluation	
Duration	Entire duration of the Project (Nov. 1st, 2019 – Dec. 31st, 2022)
Geographic scope	Whole geographical area covered by the intervention (Sub-Saharan Africa)
Technical scope	All three Project's expected outputs and the outcome

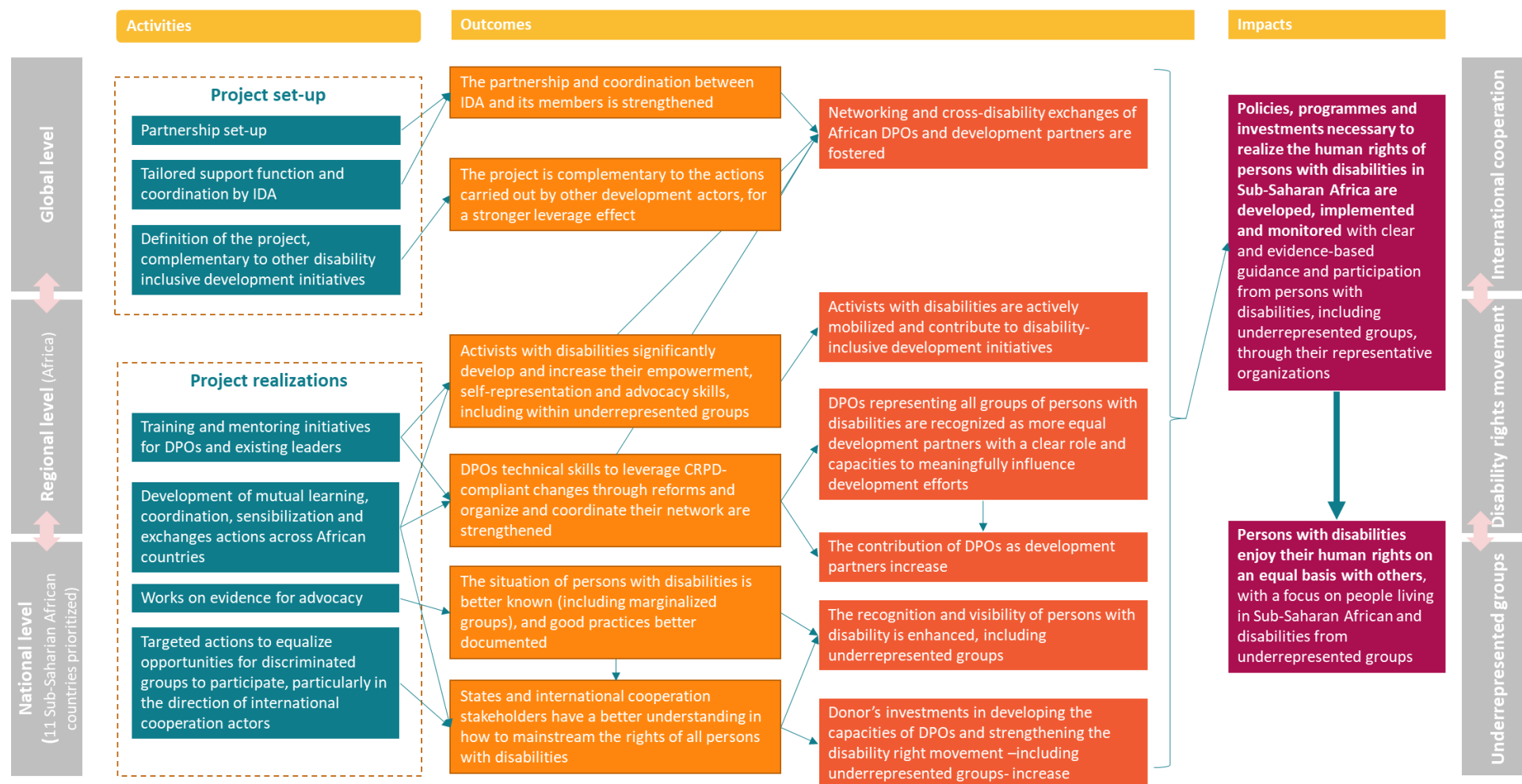
2.2. Intervention theory

The evaluation was based throughout the study on the **theory of change, and the creation of a logical impact diagram**, which has served as a guide for the analysis of the main achievements, intermediate and final results.

The first framing interviews highlighted the importance of mobilizing the theory of change and analyzing the achievement of intermediate results, as the project does not have a sufficiently precise scope or identity to go as far as impact analysis. Its purpose is twofold:

- Sharing a common understanding of what the project expected to achieve in terms of immediate results, main outcomes and final impacts
- Help the evaluation team identify the impacts to focus on. Some of the impacts are long-term impacts whose immediate link with the project will be more difficult to assess and depending on communities not belonging to the project. It was decided during the evaluation day to focus more on the direct results of the project than on the medium- and long-term impacts.

The following logical impact diagram is proposed, subject to validation by IDA. It describes the theory intervention of the project, from the different activities realised (project set-up, project realizations), to the expected outcomes and then final impacts of the project. **The same diagram will be sent in power point for accessibility purposes.**



2.3. Evaluation questions and criteria

Evaluation questions are the core of the evaluation assessment framework. They determine precisely what the evaluation must answer and guide the data collection in the field phase. Each question belongs to an evaluation criterion, as defined in the terms of references and in accordance with international standards set through the OECD². Each question is broken down into a few "success criteria" describing the expected situation.

The preliminary interviews highlighted the importance of respecting the classic evaluation framework proposed by NORAD, based on the OECD criteria, as well as the need for consideration of the OHCHR CRPD process indicators and utilization of the evaluation findings by OPDs, including IDA Secretariat and its members. The final evaluation question set is proposed as follows and detailed below in a table with 5 rows and two columns which align the proposed evaluation questions with the OECD evaluation criteria (i.e., coherence, relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability):

Coherence	Q1. To what extent were the project's goals and achievements coherent with NORAD and IDA missions, and complementary to other actors' interventions in the region?
Relevance	Q2. Was the intervention (goal, realizations, methodological approach) relevant to the needs of the disability movement in Africa, and in particular to underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities?
Efficiency	Q3. To what extent were the main outputs and outcomes delivered by the project?
Effectiveness	Q4. To what extent did the project organize all resources and techniques in a cost-effective manner, and what was the impact of the Covid-19 crisis?
Impact and sustainability	Q5. Has the project been able to advance the strengthening of the disability movement in Africa and what activities have been the most impactful and to what extent will outcomes continue beyond the project?

In the part III. is a more detailed table with the OECD criteria listed in the first column, the key evaluation question noted in the second column, the proposed evaluation criteria listed in the third column and potential data sources for each criteria are listed in the fourth column.

2.4. Evaluation plan

The evaluation was structured around three main phases:

- An inception phase aimed at defining the methodological framework of the assignment and the analysis of the project by the evaluation team on the basis of interviews and a documentary analysis (until end of July)
- A data collection phase, organized around 2 field missions, 3 case studies and possible additional interviews (until November)
- A final phase that led to the drafting of an evaluation report and the holding of a participatory workshop to share the results, validate the final diagnosis.

² www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm

2.5. Key evaluation tools

2.5.1. Stakeholders interviews

The evaluation protocol included a wide range of interviews with the key actors of the project, in relation to the different types of actions carried out:

- Nationally, regionally, and globally,
- For each of the three key outputs (i.e., strengthening the disability movement; developing technical capacities of activists, and promoting evidence-based accountability)
- With representation of various actors including: institutional representatives at national or regional levels, OPDs, activists, representatives of all the underrepresented groups targeted by the project, trainees and trainers, Donors, etc.

Interviews were conducted in-person and online before, during and after the field missions in Kenya and Mozambique in October and November 2022, respectively.

Interview participants were selected using a criterion based purposive sampling strategy. Participants were selected purposely because they had previous or current knowledge and experiences with the Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa programme. A list of potential participants was proposed by the IDA Secretariat and shared with the evaluation team. Potential participants were contacted via email or in person to request their participation in a confidential individual interview. Participants who replied with interest were asked to participate at a date and time that was convenient for them. Participants were asked their preferred mode of communication (e.g., Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp, phone or in-person – as applicable), and if they required any accommodations to participate in the interview. Interviews were conducted in English, French and Portuguese. Accommodations, such as sign language interpreters, intervenors, supports persons, etc. were arranged as requested.

In total, 47 interviews were conducted with representatives of:

- IDA global member organizations (n=8),
- IDA secretariat (n=7),
- Donors (n=1), and
- Regional, national and local OPDs in Africa (n=31).

Representatives of OPDs were located across 15 different countries including Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Angola, Sao Tome and Principe, Cape Verde, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Niger, Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. Representatives included women, men, youth and indigenous persons with different disabilities including mobility disabilities, deaf and hard of hearing people, people who were blind or low vision and persons from other underrepresented including people with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, and people with deafblindness.

2.5.2. Organization of field missions

Two field missions were organized in Kenya and Mozambique. The objectives of these field missions were:

- To directly observe certain project activities
- To meet with a variety of actors who have contributed to the project, as well as beneficiaries, as these events allow for the mobilization of a large number of actors from different African countries and representing various groups
- Seize the opportunity of field missions to carry out the case studies

- Adapt to the people interviewed by using participatory and accessible methods

The idea was to be able to travel to or interview people from three regions to illustrate the diversity of the project's activities:

- Mobilizing different members of the IDA network
- Within French, English and Portuguese-speaking regions
- Illustrating the activities carried out under the three outcomes of the project

The following actors have been met:

Key members	Goals
IDA members	• A look at the project's complementarity with other partner actions, and its consistency with needs • Feedback on the partnership set up for the project and its added value (or possible difficulties) • Overall feedback on the implementation of the project, main successes or difficulties (including the impact of Covid) • Review of all the intermediate results described in the DLI theory, and analysis of the impacts for the beneficiaries • Focus on the possible impact for the partner itself (notably ADF) • Recommendations for a similar project • Question on sustainability of the project activities and outcomes
Key OPDs involved in the operation, with a focus on individuals and organizations representing underrepresented groups	• A look at the project's complementarity with other partner actions, and its consistency with needs • Vision on the NORAD project, its specificities, its strengths or possible weaknesses • Analysis of the impacts of the project for OPDs, at each level of the DLI (strengthening of the movement, activists, evidence, impact in terms of laws or programs, recognition of the movement by external stakeholders including donors) • Analysis of the representativeness of the different groups under-represented in the project, and of the more specific contributions of the project for these sub-groups • Question on sustainability and post-project
Individual advocates and activists	• Vision on the NORAD project, its specificities, its strengths or possible weaknesses (especially if they have been mobilized by other projects?) • Analysis of the impacts of the project for individual advocates and activists (interest of the trainings, impact in terms of capacity building, real mobilization of these new skills in the service of the movement, final impact in terms of programs, policies, visibility, links between activists and OPDs, etc.) • Analysis of the representativeness of individuals from under-represented groups, and of the more specific contributions of the project for these sub-groups • Question on sustainability and post-project
Other key participants (trainers for instance)	• Vision on the NORAD project, its specificities, its strengths or possible weaknesses (especially if they have been mobilized by other projects?) • Strengths or weaknesses of the actions carried out, and vision on the achievement of the results • Question on sustainability and post-project

2.5.3. Case studies

The evaluation focused on three case studies to 1) Focus on the impacts of the project on the underrepresented groups, 2) SDG reports as specific deliverables of the project, and 3) the process and impacts of fellowships.

Case study	Goal	Key actors
Underrepresented groups	Analyze how the project helped to strengthen the diversity and representativeness of the disability right movements	Representatives of each underrepresented group (OPD and activist level) External key partners
SDGs reports	Analyze the realization process and key impacts regarding the movement strengthening	Key contributors to the activities and beneficiaries
Fellowships	Identify successes and challenges of the fellowship program, at individual, institutional and global levels	Individual fellows, national and regional organizations involved, IDA.

2.6. Focus on the accessible methods used

To ensure inclusive and accessible methods, we worked closely with the IDA Secretariat and the evaluation advisory group to design and conduct the evaluation. The evaluation team drew from practices used in the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative to uphold standards for full inclusion and accessibility of participation. For the proposed evaluation, this may include interviews, focus groups, surveys and presentations conducted in English, French or Portuguese in accordance with the primary language of participants. This included communication using sign language interpretation, interpreter-guides, plain language, etc.

We explicitly invited and welcomed requests for accommodation and accessibility for participants to maximize access to the data collection and research process, as well as for effective knowledge dissemination. For example, while some interviews were conducted remotely, we conducted in-person interviews with persons with deafblindness during field missions to ensure accessibility with the support of interpreter-guides. We may have also incorporated forms of data visualization to illustrate evaluation findings to enhance accessibility.

We strategically engaged representatives from under-represented groups involved in the Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa programme. We engaged these representatives in the evaluation with additional considerations of the needs and interests of women, indigenous peoples, youth, and persons with albinism, psychosocial disabilities and intellectual disabilities.

3. Responses to evaluative questions: Findings and recommendations

3.1. Evaluative question 1: Internal and external coherence

Internal and external coherence	Q1. To what extent were the project's goals and achievements coherent with NORAD and IDA missions, and complementary to other actors' interventions in the region?	• The intervention was aligned with the respective principles, visions, and missions of NORAD and IDA. • The intervention was coherent with other interventions by IDA and NORAD in the same context. • Synergies and interlinkages with other initiatives/projects were developed, including other collaborations between IDA and NORAD. • The partnership and coordination between IDA and its members were strengthened • The project was coherent and coordinated with interventions from other actors in the same context, thus further developing synergies and complementarities, allowing for a stronger leverage effect. • The coordination of IDA has opened doors for OPDs at national and regional levels and fed their experiences into international rights mechanisms. • The multi-stakeholder project, coordinated by IDA, made it possible to mobilize the added value of each stakeholder at its proper level
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3.1.1. Key findings related to EQ1 (internal and external coherence)

» A program fully integrated within IDA strategic framework and methodology of action

The IDA strategic framework 2020-2023 focuses on 6 pillars:

1. UN human rights standards
2. Sustainable development and humanitarian frameworks
3. International cooperation stakeholders
4. Under-represented groups
5. Technical capacities
6. Collective response capacities

Pillars 1, 2 and 3 focus on continued efforts to promote the progressive realization of the CRPD, hold key stakeholders and duty bearers accountable, and enhance political will and technical capacity to deliver on human rights commitments. Pillars 4, 5 and 6 entails strong investment to develop the capacity of the disability rights movement to represent, coordinate and unify all persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups.

The NORAD-funded project is highly consistent with the strategic framework of IDA and its members. The project contributes to strengthening each of the 6 pillars of this framework, starting from recognition and promotion of the rights of people with disabilities in a key geographical area.

The nature of the project is diffuse, aiming at a broad and ambitious objective (strengthening the disability rights movement), and thus to be analyzed as part of multiple actions (an “ecosystem of interventions”) contributing to the impact of the objectives. In this respect, the project has been implemented in a sequence of past interventions, (either external or internal) and coordinated with other donor projects being carried out simultaneously. For example, the present NORAD funded program builds on the Inclusion Works project funded by the British cooperation (FCDO, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office) and the Disability Capacity Building Program (DCPB), is also a continuation of the Catalyst program. The supportive links between these projects/programs, as well as the Global Disability Summit, were described positively by participants during Bridge CRPD-SDGs cycles.

The program has integrated and strengthened two important IDA intervention modalities in Sub-Saharan Africa:

- The Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative has played an important role as a catalyst and lever for the creation of substantive dynamics within the movement. Without focusing specifically on this activity (which was evaluated in 2019), this report identifies these leverage effects and the role of Bridge CRPD-SDGs trainings in achieving set NORAD funded project objectives.
- The activities related to the Fellowship program also emerged during the interviews as a central tool of the African strategy, having a considerable leverage effect on all the other activities conducted. It seems relevant to observe and analyze the multidimensional effects of this program, both on the structuring of the disability movement at the regional level and on the consolidation of national organizations, the realization of advocacy, awareness-raising and training activities.

» A program built on OPDs strategies and plans of actions

The process of building the program consisted of integrating a wide range of actions and initiatives planned or in the process of being financed by the OPDS, particularly at the national level. This initial choice is linked to the very nature of IDA, as a federation at the service of its members, responsible for supporting them in their development.

The interviews and observations highlight the relevance of the program to local and national organization representatives, and the full articulation of their own strategic planning.

This was confirmed by one OPD representative a west African country who said:

For me (the NORAD-funded program) is based on real observed needs and takes up major themes, notably that of underrepresented groups. I had totally approved and supported the concept note developed by the IDA Secretariat.

For other groups or organizations, the program financed by NORAD extended and reinforced existing dynamics that were in danger of being abandoned.

» A program consistent with NORAD's strategy: the SDGs as a reference and a lever for action

The strategy "NORAD of the future" toward 2030 places the SDGs as the global framework and reference for all actions. NORAD intends to contribute to the concrete implementation of the goals through strategic support to its partners, particularly in the fight against social inequalities.

The Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa program fits well with this ambition, and at different levels:

- In terms of geographical area, the program concerns an area particularly at risk in terms of democracy, global warming, and conflicts. Many of the countries covered by the program are in a critical situation in terms of extreme poverty.
- In addition, during the evaluation, we noted the importance of the climate issue in the advocacy and intervention activities of local organizations. This was notably the case during a workshop in Kenya led by representatives of an indigenous Maasai group on the links between ethnic discrimination, environmental issues and disability.
- In terms of target audience, the program focuses on groups and organizations of people particularly at risk of poverty, exclusion and marginalization. It thus contributes to ensuring that the most vulnerable groups are not left out of the implementation of the SDGs but are instead active agents in the achievement of these goals.
- In a strategic perspective, the program relies on a wide range of local, national, and regional organizations active in the development of civil society and fight against inequality. As a result, the program allows NORAD to have a broad presence within the African continent, through a dense, multi-scale network, connected to the global movement to implement the SDGs in the area.

We describe below the actions developed towards advocacy on SDGs.

» Reflections on methodological processes

From the beginning and over the course of the program, IDA's participatory, inclusive and flexible methodological approach worked well. The sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the agility of IDA to pivot their activities in response to the needs and priorities of people with disabilities, including underrepresented groups in the region. Many activities quickly shifted online and conducted with caution and strong health and safety requirements when returning to in-person meetings.

Participants from some of the underrepresented groups of OPDs commented that the design of the program could have been more inclusive. For example, DSI's report on the project noted:

"Efforts were made in the project design to provide room for member organizations to plan and adapt activities, but a full co-design approach was not taken."

Other member organizations recognized the challenges of tight timelines set by funders for proposal development which limits opportunities for participatory processes. Inclusive co-design takes time – especially when working transnationally with people who communicate using different verbal and non-verbal languages. Moreover, many OPDs are overworked and under resourced which present challenges to participate in a coordinated proposal within a limited time window.

Moreover, IDA has embraced this external evaluation as an opportunity for critical reflection and feedback to strengthen activities and placed emphasis on continuous improvement of their programming. Upon reflection of IDA's processes, some participants raised questions about how the program is connecting global, regional and national level activities to the grassroots level. Some participants were unsure about how IDA's activities were leading to change in communities where participants lived. Some participants perceived a dilemma in the link between the global to the national to the local. On the other hand, we found several examples of participants who mobilized the knowledge they gained through participation in IDA activities (e.g., workshops, Bridge training, fellowships) to engage in advocacy and activism in their local communities. For example, some participants engaged with local government to increase disability awareness and inclusion, advocated for the rights of local community members with disabilities, and start their own grassroots local OPD.

3.1.2. Synthesis of findings and recommendations related to EQ1 (internal and external coherence)

Key successes

- › Program based on OPDs strategies.
- › Fully coherent with IDA's global strategy.
- › Fully articulated with other projects and programs.
- › Coherent with NORAD strategy toward 2030 with a strong contribution to the development and application of Sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Limits

- › Not really identified as a "project" or "program" by stakeholders.
- › Still a relative compartmentalization of actors at the regional level.

Recommendations

With consideration of future projects and programs we identify the following avenues to strengthen the impact of IDA and its partners:

In the program definition phase:

- Ensure a fruitful dialogue between regional, national and local organization to better guaranty the articulation between the three scales of action.
- Ensure the full participation of underrepresented groups, particularly by allowing time for negotiations and exchanges and by adapting all means of communication.
- Strengthen the geographic coverage of the program by including areas that are not yet or are insufficiently covered (Central Africa, Portuguese-speaking countries,)
- Consider in the definition of the program more South-South exchanges, from countries that have developed a strong expertise in the topics explored (Kenya for example) and from North African countries that are currently not integrated in the program (Morocco, Algeria in particular).

In the implementation phase:

- Incorporate a mid-term evaluation or mid-term progress report event shared with all stakeholders.
- To set up a forum of knowledge exchange about the program allowing a better identification of the program and another modality of exchange of practices and knowledge between organizations

3.2. Evaluative question 2: relevance

Relevance	Q2. Was the intervention (goal, realizations, methodological approach) relevant to the needs of the disability movement in Africa, and in particular to underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities?	• The intervention was aligned with the priorities and requirements of OPDs in Africa, and particularly relevant to underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities. • Key informants/stakeholders involved in the preparation of the actions ensured representation and participatory approach.
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3.2.1. Key findings related to EQ 2 (relevance)

» Overview

Our findings indicate that the program is relevant to the ongoing work of the disability movement in Africa and including underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities. From the beginning, the program included the IDA Secretariat, ADF, DSI, II, WBU, WFDB and WNUSP. These IDA members have OPD members in Sub-Saharan Africa, including at regional and country levels, representing the disability movement in various countries of the region. These IDA members also represent OPDs and persons from underrepresented groups – namely persons with intellectual disabilities, psychosocial disabilities, and deafblindness. Thus, the program was developed to support and amplify local, national, and regional OPD activities to enhance their capacities and advocacy efforts.

Many participants said they have seen an increase in the inclusion of underrepresented groups within the broader disability movement. For example, participants said IDA has played a key role for the inclusion of underrepresented groups in national and regional umbrella OPDs which were viewed to be the most powerful and influential organizations in the region. One participant described this as “gate crashing” such that underrepresented groups are crashing the gates built by gatekeepers in the movement. These gatekeepers were described as mostly men with physical disabilities.

Our evaluation indicates that IDA has enhanced the capacity of national and regional OPDs to be more inclusive by requiring participation from underrepresented groups in program activities. Participants from these national and regional OPDs said that IDA has shown them that it is possible to be more inclusive. They have learned about

indigenous peoples, youth and women's issues, and different types of accommodations to be more accessible to persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with deafblindness and persons with psychosocial disabilities. This participation has increased dialogue between large and small OPDs and resulted in OPDs of underrepresented groups becoming members of umbrella OPDs. This membership provides opportunity for underrepresented groups to have an official voice and position within the movement and helps to ensure their needs and priorities are included in advocacy and development efforts.

» Context for social change: Expressed needs and priorities of persons from underrepresented groups

Participants described that they experience challenges and barriers to social, cultural, political, and economic inclusion and sovereignty. One of the key challenges relate to cultural myths, misinformation, and misconceptions about disability, especially for underrepresented groups. For example, the majority of participants described how their communities have limited awareness of different disorders and impairments – like albinism and mental health issues – and attribute these human differences to curses and sin as a result of the immorality of families and individuals with disabilities. In many communities, persons with disabilities are viewed as undesirable, throwaways, non-people, and people to be made fun of.

These myths and misconceptions have been used to perpetrate violence against persons with disabilities and deny their rights and entitlements. Many participants described how they live in fear of being physically, socially and emotionally harmed by other community members and government. For example, indigenous persons with disabilities have experienced historic injustices and colonial violence that has resulted in a collective sense of fear of discussing issues that concern them because of past conflicts and displacement from their lands. Persons with intellectual disabilities described how children are being tied up or caged in their homes because of stigma, discrimination and a lack of services and supports for children and families. Persons with albinism have been used for sacrificial purposes and are at increased risk of skin cancer due to a lack of awareness about albinism.

Persons with disabilities described being excluded from national and local political processes such as elections; consultations and decision making about laws, policies, and programs; and employment in the public sector. Moreover, some governments present barriers for OPDs to register as official organizations. For example, one national government required an organization of people with psychosocial disabilities to submit letters from their psychiatrists confirming the mental capacity of each board member before considering their application for registration as an official organization which then took years to realize.

Within the movement, participants described the challenges of identity politics, power and marginalization or exclusion of underrepresented groups from national and regional umbrella OPDs. For example, some organizations of persons with psychosocial disabilities have not been recognized as persons with disabilities. Some women have had to advocate for inclusion as well. Many women with disabilities describe extreme gender-based violence, abuse and discrimination within the movement and in their communities.

One participant, president of a regional organization and president of a national organization described this in the following way:

"There are undeniably dominant groups such as the physically disabled, the blind, but the deaf, the albino, the intellectually disabled are often forgotten. Sometimes it is even difficult to find them, because they are less visible. It is the mentality of the movement itself that needs to be changed, by relying on leadership and working to understand these underrepresented groups. The content of the trainings responds well to this understanding".

Some participants from "dominant" groups recognize the impact of the program's activities on their own representation, like this activist from a Portuguese speaking country in Maputo in November 2022:

“Because of the participation of these people from underrepresented groups, my vision has changed. I always found too difficult for me to do meetings with people who are deaf and blind, for instance. Now I see things completely differently, I had the proof that it is totally feasible, and important”.

Beyond the movement, participants described how they are excluded or marginalized from broader social movements such as the women’s and indigenous peoples’ movements. Currently, women with disabilities are advocating for inclusion in the women’s movement and indigenous persons with disabilities are advocating for recognition in indigenous movements and communities.

All these challenges and barriers are embedded within a context of extreme poverty, food insecurity and climate change. Most participants talked about a lack of access to education and employment as a means to earn income. Most OPDs described the challenges accessing funding from donors. Indigenous peoples are being displaced from their communities due to drought and floods.

Evaluation findings indicate that the needs of the disability movement in Africa are embedded within a context of profound poverty, stigma, discrimination, exclusion, and violence. Within this context, individuals and organizations are demonstrating tremendous advocacy, strength and resilience. Thus, the Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa Program is situated to address the contextual factors that negatively impact on the progressive realization of the rights of persons with disabilities and enhance the capacities of individuals with disabilities and their representative organizations.

» IDA as a facilitator for change

Over the course of the program **IDA has provided extensive logistical, substantive and technical support to the disability movement in Africa and to underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities.** The IDA Secretariat and IDA’s members have supported the facilitation of meetings led by current and emerging leaders in the African disability movement including meetings and workshops by and for women, youth, indigenous persons, persons with psychosocial disabilities deafblindness, intellectual disabilities and youth.

Figure 1 - Photo of participants at a WFDB meeting in Nairobi Kenya in October 2022



Participants described how the program brought persons with disabilities together to “articulate the issues” for themselves. Broadly, these issues include the realization of human rights and inclusive sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa.

Participants described how program meetings, trainings and workshops made them feel “empowered”. From a youth perspective, one participant said that after participating in these meetings and workshop (including the Africa Youth with Disabilities Caucus in 2021):

“I learned that whatever people can do, persons with disabilities can do better. [Since attending these meetings], I have no fear because I understand my rights as a person with a disability... We talked about the CRPD, and— just from [those meetings], I was more empowered and gained more skills and used them at the county level.”

Many participants described how they have used the knowledge they have gained through participation in meetings, workshops and the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training to develop and implement initiatives in their communities. For example, several **participants have started new local OPDs** to address the needs of people from underrepresented groups (i.e., persons with albinism, psychosocial disabilities, youth, and women) in their particular community contexts. Participants described some of the unique and common challenges and barriers they experience in their local areas. Some of these unique challenges and barriers related to the lack of disability laws and policies, services and supports, as well as profound stigma because of particular cultural beliefs.

Many participants are now actively and successfully participating in local and national political processes including running for office, increasing the number of persons with disabilities employed in government departments, presenting at public budget meetings, and meeting directly with local and national government representatives to raise awareness of disability issues. Participants are also working to increase participation of other people with disabilities in political processes. For example, one participant described how they coordinated a roundtable

meeting with their county government to talk about disability issues. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together persons with disabilities and local government officials to educate local government on how to perform their duties as duty bearers with the responsibility of advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. This meeting specifically focused on the need for budgets allocated for accessibility and disability inclusion. One participant said,

"I learned how to fight for our own space... when persons with disabilities educate the community then they accept that persons with disabilities are 'able'."

This participant described how their political advocacy resulted in the receipt of public-school bursaries to give to children with disabilities so they could attend school. A few participants also described how their local government now officially recognize their OPDs and have provided them with office and meeting space, as well as regular invitations to committee meetings.

Our evaluation highlights how the program has been particularly impactful for indigenous people with disabilities, women with disabilities and people with psychosocial disabilities.

» Focus on the work with underrepresented groups

Visibility of underrepresented groups was a key theme during interviews with all stakeholders. Given the systemic challenges and barriers to inclusion, participants described a profound evolution in the way underrepresented groups are considered and integrated within the movement in Africa.

For example, one a regional OPD representative said:

"This project has made it possible to consider these groups much more visible. For example, in Niger, there were only 5 groups before. Now, associations of children with cerebral palsy, intellectually disabled people and [people with albinism] have been included in the Federation. Thus, these groups are also becoming more visible and recognized by the government."

IDA understands the term "underrepresented groups" to be those among persons with disabilities who enjoy less visibility in decision-making processes. The disability movement, like other social movements, is not homogenous. Some groups have traditionally been less included in participatory processes, extremely marginalized, and face unique barriers to participation. This understanding may differ in different countries, cultures, and contexts but in general, this project focused on addressing the barriers, challenges and exclusion facing women, girls, youth and indigenous persons with disabilities, persons with deafblindness, albinism, and persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

Focus : View from Mozambique Bridge CRPD-SDGs session

As it has been already emphasized, the inclusion of underrepresented groups is a strong point and a success of this project, notably visible in the Maputo event in November 2022. For example, the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training including strong representation from many underrepresented groups. Our evaluation indicates that the inclusion of underrepresented groups has a double effect the individuals and organizations' vision and functioning.

The participation of underrepresented groups appears to affect the mindsets of individuals in the movement by eliminating prejudices and demonstrating that inclusion is possible. For example, many members of the OPDs thought that in the context of a training, the communication with deafblind people would be too difficult, or at least would not meet the challenges. In fact, it appears that the positive impact of these exchanges through the meeting/training is real for all participants. For the people from underrepresented groups themselves, it is a deep satisfaction to participate. For example,

a deafblind woman communicated that she felt included as part of the group, with her personal assistant who is able to communicate with her, "I am learning a lot about inclusion and rights. People take the time to listen to me. I don't feel any difference between all of us".

Another participant with cerebral palsy said:

"It is difficult for us to be heard. People don't listen to me because they don't understand what I say. Here I express myself and I bring my experience. I learn a lot. It is intense. In the evening I can't sleep easily with so many things in my head!"

A participant with a psychosocial disability commented:

"I gain confidence thanks to this training, and also recognition. Indeed, I receive many requests from other countries present, because psychosocial disability is less recognized, our rights are often violated and there are not much associations".

A representative of an OPD said:

"For [persons from underrepresented groups], going to Maputo to participate in an event for almost 10 days changes the way their own family and neighbors look at them".

From the perspective of someone who did not have experience working with people with deafblindness:

"Today inclusion seems easier, or rather feasible. Communicating with a deafblind person used to be a problem for me. I thought it was easier to deal with people from some particular groups than from others. My perception has changed".

An OPD leader from the disability movement explains:

"This project has allowed us to consider new groups because there were only 5 groups in Niger. Now, several associations representing these less visible groups have joined the Federation. Some are new, others existed but were completely in the assistantship: children with cerebral palsy, people with psychosocial disabilities, with albinism. These associations are now known to the government ».

Strengthening the movement of women with disabilities

Throughout the program, IDA has engaged women with disabilities across the region to promote dialogue and awareness of the main challenges they face, including:

- Lack of inclusion and representation in decision-making spaces and processes.
- Absence of policies that ensure meaningful participation of women with disability in mainstream women's movement and the disability movement, including decision making process.'
- Social and culturally constructed stereotypes/ patriarchy.
- Low self-esteem and lack of confidence
- Early marriages, gender-based violence and denial of health, sexual and reproductive rights
- Lack of access to equal opportunities, particularly in education.

According to participants, key outcomes of this work has been the increased opportunities for inclusion and representation of women with disabilities in decision-making spaces and process, increased self-esteem and confidence, and connections to the broader women's movement. One participant emphasized the importance of sharing with other women activists, and the effects in terms of confidence and individual commitment:

"The enrichment is not only linked to the trainings and workshops, but it also comes from the many meetings we had in Maputo. We talked a lot among women. Some of them are not sure what their families will think if they are very involved in inclusion, if they make their disability visible. But these exchanges have stimulated confidence (...) on a personal level I have gained a lot of confidence. I want to go on radio and television, I have also established contacts with the City Council".

Figure 2 - Photo of women with disabilities meeting in Nairobi to identify key issues, challenges, and opportunities for their movement in October 2022.



Figure 3 - Notes taken during October 2022 meeting of women with disabilities in Nairobi Kenya



The Bridge CRPD-SDGs training, and other program meetings and workshops have provided women with an opportunity to become educated about their rights and entitlements. For example, one woman described,

“After Bridge I felt hope for living...I realized I had rights, and the government has a duty to protect me.”

Most women who participated in interviews have applied their knowledge and confidence to establish new OPDs in their communities. Women described how they have advocated for the rights of other persons with disabilities in their local communities and partnered with powerful institutions. For example, women have made presentations and collaborated with local police and hospitals to educate them about disability from a human rights perspective. They have garnered the attention and support from large funders such as the Ford Foundation, Womankind Worldwide, and CREA (a feminist international human rights organization based in the Global South).

For example, with technical support of IDA, National Union of Women with Disabilities of Uganda (NUWODU) participated in the Committee on Eliminating Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) review cycle. Participants described how this experience made them feel valued and recognized for their knowledge and lived experiences. Participants described feeling confident and “empowered” because they spoke to the CEDAW Committee “from an informed position” about their rights, and the challenge in their socio-legal context (e.g., laws and policies). NUWODU is now trying to mainstream women with disabilities in the women’s movement and is being sponsored by Womankind Worldwide to carry out this work.

As a result of these positive outcomes, one participant suggested that the movement of women with disabilities is much more sustainable than before the program began. She suggested that women with disabilities have gained the strength of making linkages to donors and other organizations and learned technical skills to coordinate themselves.

Supporting indigenous leadership

Over the course of the program, IDA has actively involved indigenous persons with disabilities in partnership with the Indigenous Peoples with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN) – a network of indigenous persons with disabilities that was founded to promote the rights of indigenous persons with disabilities, reach out to new communities and engage with international and regional human rights and development processes. In 2021, an indigenous leader from Kenya – Manase Saitoti Ntutu - became the co-chair of IPWDGN. Manase is a leader representing indigenous persons with disabilities, with experience in advocacy from the grassroots of Kenya to the international arena. He is currently a member of the National Council of Disability in Kenya and also holds positions as Chairman of Narok South Disability Network and Chairman of Ololulunga Physically handicapped self-help group.

In 2021, the IPWDGN, Narok South Disability Network and IDA hosted a technical workshop in Kenya including representatives of organizations of indigenous persons with disabilities (IOPDs) from different counties in Kenya such as Narok, Kajiado, Baringo and Samburu; and different constituencies, including indigenous persons with psychosocial disabilities, albinism, persons with small stature and Deaf people. The workshop was co-facilitated by persons with disabilities from Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda. The main goals of this workshop were to strengthen the capacity of the indigenous with disabilities group in Kenya on the CRPD, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and SDGs as well as to understanding how the COVID-19 crisis have affected indigenous peoples with disability and their representative organizations.

Following up on the learning at this workshop, another meeting was held in Kenya in 2022. The purpose of this meeting was to have a focused discussion on key issues identified by indigenous persons with disabilities over the course of the program and at the 2021 workshop. These topics included the impacts of climate change on African indigenous communities and ideas about how to adapt and mitigate these impacts, as well as additional supports and resources required for their communities to become more resilient. Other issues included intersectional forms of discrimination, gender equality and gender-based violence, and the need for more inclusive research, data and knowledge addressing the expressed needs and priorities of indigenous persons with disabilities.

Figure 4 – Indigenous people with disabilities meeting in Nairobi in October, 2022



In response to these priorities, IDA partnered with IPWDGN and the Endorois Indigenous Women Empowerment Network in Kenya to co-lead research on climate change-related displacement of indigenous people with disabilities in Baringo, Kenya. This community-based research aims at deepening understanding on the situation and the impact of climate change and climate action affecting indigenous peoples with disabilities in Kenya's Baringo County, particularly on women and youth with disabilities.

Indigenous participants described how IDA's work has increased their knowledge of the CRPD and indigenous issues. One participant said,

"[The program] has been an eye opener to us to help us understand the language of the CRPD and advocacy...after our training we did advocacy in our local areas."

Several participants also described how they started to view issues from an intersectional perspective. One participant said he has developed an initiative to provide sanitary products and education about menstrual cycles to girls with disabilities in school. Our evaluation team also observed representation of women with disabilities at meetings in Mozambique and Kenya.

Promoting inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities

The program has facilitated connections among persons with psychosocial disabilities in the region. With technical support from IDA, several meetings and workshops have brought together groups of persons with psychosocial disabilities including members of PANPPD, TCI Asia (who is expanding into Africa and has supported IDA fellows in the region), and other grassroots and national OPDs. Our evaluation observed IDA providing logistical support for the PANPPD strategic planning meeting.

Our evaluation indicates that the program has contributed to increased dialogue about the exclusion and marginalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the broader disability movement, lack of access to mental health care, the need to increase political recognition of persons with lived experience, and extreme stigma in communities. For example, one participant commented, *"We were always associated as crazy folks"* and not welcome in the disability movement. Many participants argued that psychosocial disability tends to fall more easily into the medical model of disability and government ministries of health. However, participants said, *"The CRPD is a strong antidote"* for the story of medicalization of persons with psychosocial disabilities. Participants also said that IDA's requirement of inclusion of persons with psychosocial disabilities in the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training has helped to break the divide between different people with disabilities in the disability movement.

For example, one participant said:

"IDA made it possible for us to be included in the Bridge training because they went the extra mile to find [our organization of persons with psychosocial disabilities] and include us in the training even when the national [OPD] did not include us. We are very grateful."

This participant described how the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training provided opportunity for them to meet with leaders of the national OPD and eventually obtain official membership for their organization in the national umbrella OPD.

Some participants have used knowledge gained through Bridge CRPD-SDGs training and other program meetings and workshops to change policies and laws and develop community services and support. For example, participants from Ethiopia successfully advocated for the inclusion of peer support in the optimal mix of services noted in the National Mental Health Strategy Plan. In Zimbabwe, participants responded to the lack of mental health supports for people with psychosocial disabilities and partnered with community mental health service providers to increase access to free mental health services and peer support. These services were developed to provide opportunities for people with psychosocial disabilities *"to engage with each other, and express their life challenges, without the prejudice of stigma associated with mental disorder in African culture and stigma"*.

Inclusion of persons with deafblindness

According to WFDB definition, deafblindness is a combined vision and hearing impairment of such severity that it is hard for the impaired senses to compensate for each other. Thus, deafblindness is a distinct impairment.

As with other disabilities, one of the major challenges here is the lack of accessibility of information and communication, which requires, among other things, the presence of trained and specialized interpreters who combine different forms of interpretation. Given the complexity of the task, one person may need various dedicated interpreters, who take turns at regular intervals. The question of training these interpreters is central here, both in the interpreting technique, in the understanding of the terms used, in the ethics brought to this work. Within the framework of the activities developed by IDA within the program, there is also the question of the lexical field used and the complexity of the concepts and notions mobilized. For example, one deafblind person involved in a federation told us :

Despite lots of efforts, many information from IDA are not fully accessible for many deaf blind participants. Because of lack of interpreters, or sometimes they don't know the quite high level language used by IDA. Thus it can be also difficult for us to pass information to our members, with some exception for those who have grow up in English speaking countries. (...). Assistant and other persons sometimes do things without the persons, speaking between each other excluding DB persons.

Here, as in other areas covered in this report, this difficulty go beyond the strict perimeter and responsibility of IDA because of the more global difficulty of finding interpreters, and the level of regular participants' interpreters.

The Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa program supported the efforts of the WFDB in Africa to develop and reinforce the role of deafblind people's organizations in the region. It included data collection for the 2nd Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness.

Focus on the 2nd Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness

The Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa program supported the efforts of the WFDB in Africa to develop and reinforce the role of deafblind people's organizations in the region. It included data collection for the 2nd Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness.

In 2021, the WFDB coordinated national in-person workshops, small online meetings, and developed a survey to collect data for the 2nd Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness. Two workshops were held in Kenya and brought together persons with deafblindness, including indigenous persons, women and youth to share lived experiences, framing priorities for the 2nd report, and considering good practices. The 2nd Global report is critical to strengthening common ground in the movement of persons with deafblindness and the broader disability movement, as well as building on the impacts of the 1st Global Report. The 2nd report consolidates new evidence from different regions and perspectives from persons with deafblindness and their representative organisations, as well as service providers and other allies.

WFDB also focused on mentoring and facilitating a space for two fellows from the region who also contributed significantly to WFDB's capacity building activities, evidence collection through case studies and advocacy. The fellows were integral to the design and data collection process for the 2nd report. The Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa programme contributed resources to support fellowships and the development of the report. A participant from an African deafblind organization said,

"Generally, the disability movement in Africa has made milestones. But certain groups are still behind, like deafblind organizations, because of a lack of resources....With this program, IDA and WFDB have funded some activities, events, and helped us with fundraising, at the national and regional level, [and]

this is an important step...[However, there is further need for inclusion of] under resented groups, to ensure that we also come on board within the movement."

Inclusion and participation of persons with intellectual disabilities.

DSi and II were involved in implementing several activities to advance the inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities.

For example, DSi established and trained self-advocacy groups in Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, and Nigeria. These self-advocacy groups were provided with space for learning and connecting as a group, but also to grow the individual self-confidence and communication of self-advocates. Self-advocates have also been included systematically within IDA's mainstream training and technical workshops. According to DSi's reports on lessons learned over the course of the program,

"All stakeholders placed a lot of value of working in partnerships, both within their countries and with people and organizations in other countries...Member organizations also reported having built better relationships with partners organizations in their countries, including government departments, other OPDs and other civil society organizations."

As IDA previously reported to NORAD, Inclusion International worked with regional (Inclusion Africa) and national members (in Ghana, Rwanda, Ethiopia) to focus on strengthening the disability movement in Sub-Saharan Africa by building the capacity of self-advocates and their supporters to engage in advocacy and contribute to technical capacity development on inclusive education for people with intellectual disabilities. The work funded through the NORAD program has built on the experience of two global programs run by Inclusion International – Empower Us (building self-advocacy leadership), and the Catalyst for Inclusive Education (capacity building program for members working in the area of inclusive education). To increase coordination and networking, three self-advocacy groups were formed in the project countries. These groups worked towards building capacity to engage in advocacy activities and strengthen cohesion among themselves.

One participant we interviewed talked about how they have conducted training on the CRPD with other self-advocates. They used the knowledge they have gained through the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training of Trainers to increase knowledge and awareness of the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities. However, they also said that the extreme poverty, and low expectations for persons with intellectual disabilities present incredible barriers to social, political and economic inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities. As such, they recommended that the need for more training and education of families, governments, and other duty-bearers to implement the CRPD and realize the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities.

3.2.2. Summary of findings, and Recommendations linked to EQ 2 (relevance)

Key successes

- › Project based on OPDs strategies.
- › Strong support to the regional movement through ADF
- › Key impact on proving the feasibility of Underrepresented groups inclusion in the movement (removing barriers within the movement)
- › Clear results in terms of representation of underrepresented groups within the African disability movement
- › Clear shift in terms of gender and recognize role of women within the movement.

Limits

- › Challenges linked to the high variety of contexts and organization's capacities.

- › Still some challenges related to the accessibility of information for certain groups (notably people with deaf blindness)

Recommendations

- › **Amplify knowledge mobilization and awareness of strategies to connect the global with the national and local.** Our evaluation reveals numerous examples of how participants have mobilized knowledge and connections they made during the programme to develop initiatives in their communities and conduct effective advocacy. Some participants suggested there is a need for more information and guidance about how IDA's activities can affect change at the national and local levels. We recommend sharing practical examples of knowledge mobilization shared throughout this report to demonstrate how to realize rights in practice and connect to the grassroots. For example, participants have engaged with their local governments to increase disability awareness and inclusion in policy making and budgeting, advocated for the rights of local people with disabilities within their indigenous communities and health and social service sector institutions (e.g., schools, hospitals, police), as well started their own local grassroots OPDs.
- › **Coordinate validation workshops specifically for people with intellectual disabilities, deafblindness, and psychosocial disabilities.** Several participants suggested that each of these groups have unique needs, interests and priorities that could be supported in separate Bridge validation workshops. A workshop for some groups could increase how their input is gathered and incorporated into the Bridge CRPD-SDGs curriculum. Our findings indicate that this work has been done in terms of considering the diverse needs of persons from underrepresented groups. Bridge CRPD-SDGs is an evolving programme with staff that embrace continuous improvement, and this is one way in which to realize the value of continuous improvement. This should also be supported by the donors, as it increases the inclusive structure to implement Bridge CRPD-SDGs trainings.
- › **Continue to advocate for reasonable funding requirements by donors to promote equitable access to funds for OPDs with varying levels of capacity.** This would involve providing technical support to donors to make reporting requirements more accessible. We also recommend leveraging relationships with donors to promote the benefits of providing seed money to OPDs to support further fundraising, which could be implemented through micro-grants processes.
- › In addition, ***allow for a co-creation phase in project plans, with permitted budget lines to allow all stakeholders to be fully involved in the project design process from the beginning.*** This is of course linked to the strategy of IDA donors and supports to allow the inclusion of this type of activity in the framework of projects or programs.

3.3. Evaluative question 3: Effectiveness

Effectiveness	Q3. To what extent were the main outputs and outcomes delivered by the project?	• IDA achieved the objectives at different levels set in the result framework. • The activities were consistent and relevant to the expected results.
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3.3.1. Key findings related to EQ 3 (effectiveness).

» Indicators achievements

The project went well, despite the health crisis context it faced, which required the readaptation of some events in remote format. The analysis of the logical framework in September 2022 shows a good general level of progress, with :

- **A majority of objectives that have been met or exceeded:** increase in the number of references to people with disabilities in national or regional policies and programs, development of new self-advocacy groups including underrepresented groups, increase in the number of people especially in underrepresented groups participating in training, new self-advocacy groups, number of events dealing with these topics, etc.
- **Several activities that are well underway and being finalized:** direct references to underrepresented groups in strategic documents, action plans including a focus on persons with psychosocial disabilities, and evidence reports on the situation of persons with disabilities in Africa (in the process of being validated, but there has been a real increase in the number of reports on these topics)
- **Some activities that suffered though from the health crisis**, such as the Hellen Keller conference, which was finally transformed into several separate events (to be noticed that this change was decided by WFDB, linked to the organisation of the General Assembly, with no impact on the project results), and **the number of advocates with disabilities** from Sub Saharan African Countries trained ad Bridge CRPD-SDGs facilitators, linked to the reduction in the number of training courses for trainers in Geneva in particular

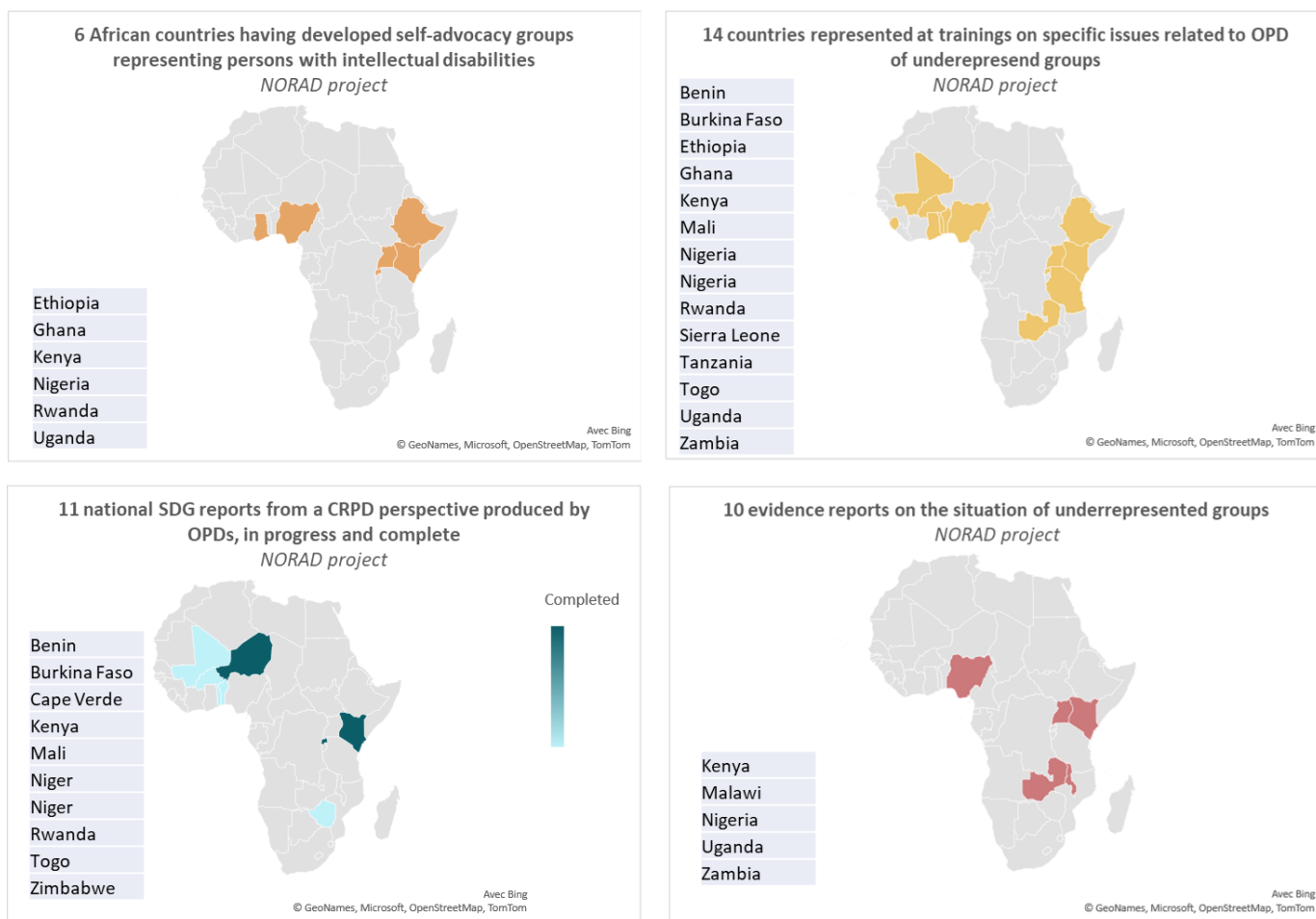
Tableau 1. Pluricité Septembre 2022

Indicator	Progress and achievements	Sources and comments
Outcome 1 “ The influence of the disability rights movement to shape the development agenda in Sub-Saharan Africa towards the full and effective realization of human rights of persons with disabilities has increased”		
a. Number of African OPDs who perceive increased participation in development policies, programs and decision-making processes	Nearly achieved. Improved perception of African OPDs in development policies, programmes and decision-making process (baseline 2019 survey)	1st and 2nd IDA Global Survey reports, and/or reports on the CRPD. (2019 and 2021)
b. Number of references to persons with disabilities in policies, programs or key reports produced by governments or regional integration bodies	Achieved. 100% (43/43) of the African Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)³ in 2020, 2021 and 2022, and 94% (126/133) of the global VNRs, increasing	Reports on SDGs achievement in Africa from a CRPD perspective
c. Number of new references to or inclusion of issues of underrepresented persons with disabilities, in policy documents or programs of international cooperation and human rights stakeholders active in Sub-Saharan Africa	In good progress. 12 new references to or inclusion of issues of underrepresented persons with disabilities (15 targeted, baseline nearly 0 among key priorities).	Examples : Word bank report on the Covid-19 lessons learnt, 2022 African Union Climate change and resilient development Strategy and action plan, etc.
Output 1 “ Capacity of persons with disabilities, especially underrepresented groups, to organize and coordinate their political advocacy work is strengthened”		
a. Number of newly developed self-advocacy groups representing persons with intellectual disabilities	Achieved. (>100%) 6 African countries have developed self-advocacy groups representing persons with intellectual disabilities (Rwanda x 2, Uganda, Nigeria, and Kenya, Ethiopia, and Ghana) (initial target of 4, baseline 0)	IDA and IDA members activity reports; records of self-advocacy groups’ regular meetings
b. Number of regional action plans that articulate the priorities of respectively (a) women with disabilities and (b) persons with psychosocial disabilities	In good progress. 1 regional report produced by ADF on the SDGs from a CRPD perspective focused on the situation of women with disabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa 1 regional strategy 4 in-person meetings to articulate the priorities of persons with psychosocial disabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa finalized 1 online survey to PANPPD members 1 PANPPD strategy developed Regional women’s strategy and regional strategy on persons with psychosocial disabilities in development	Regional action plans developed by IDA and its members, WNUSP reports
c. Number of Global and regional advocacy platform(s) of persons with deafblindness	Adjusted (Covid-19) and achieved. Helen Keller Conference adjusted to 3 events in October 2022: the regional workshop WFDB on the 2nd world report on situation of persons with deaf blindness, the AFDB general Assembly, and the WFDB general assembly	WFDB organization of the 12th Global Helen Keller Conference (minutes and agenda from conference)

³ Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) help countries to report on the actions taken and progress made to advance the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals at home and abroad

Output 2 “A critical mass of national activists with disabilities across African countries have developed technical skills to effectively engage in advocating for their rights and advise reforms of policy, laws and development programmes and to monitor progress		
a. Number of countries from Sub-Saharan Africa represented at trainings on specific issues related to organizations of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities	Achieved. (>100%) Organizations of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities from 14 Sub-Saharan African countries were trained in issues specific to their constituencies by their peers (Rwanda, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Togo, Mali, Benin, Niger, Burkina Faso, Tanzania) (initial target of 11, no baseline, estimated to be around 0)	Participant lists and reports from training workshops held for underrepresented groups
b. Number of activists with disabilities from Francophone, Lusophone and Anglophone African countries trained on CRPD, SDGs and ways to operationalize the CRPD at national level	Achieved. (>100%) 239 activists with disabilities from Francophone, Lusophone and Anglophone African countries trained on the Bridge CRPD initiative (48% women and 57% from underrepresented groups.) (Initial baseline of 89, initial target of 183).	Bridge CRPD-SDGs training reports on the overall training initiative and cycle reports.
c. Number of advocates with disabilities from Sub Saharan African countries trained as Bridge facilitators to run Bridge cycles in French, English or Portuguese	Achieved. (>100%) 28 advocates with disabilities from African countries trained as Bridge facilitators (16 being advocates/facilitators and 12 accredited lead Bridge trainers) (target of 8 advocates, and 2 accredited lead Bridge trainers) 19 advocates with disabilities are currently being trained.	Bridge CRPD-SDGs training reports on the overall training initiative and cycle reports
Output 3 “A critical mass of national activists with disabilities across African countries have developed technical skills to effectively engage in advocating for their rights and advise reforms of policy, laws and development programmes and to monitor progress		
a. Nb of evidence reports on the situation of persons with disabilities in Africa	In good progress. 1 expanded African report produced by OPDs documents 11 national SDG report from a CRPD perspective produced by OPDs in Africa. 3 completed (Kenya, Niger, Rwanda), 8 in progress (Cape Verde, Zimbabwe, Togo, Benin, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, ADF regional), 3 co-funded by Finland and FCDO (target of 4) 1 new version of the Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness including good practices and recommendations (target of 1) - Evidence on the situation of underrepresented groups: 10 reports in final stages of completion (Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Nigeria, Uganda, no specific target)	IDA reports posted on IDA website and IDA members website
b. Number of advocacy or awareness events targeting international cooperation stakeholders or governments on inclusion of priorities of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities in their programmes	Achieved (>100%) 14 collaborations or partnerships between OPDs and international development partners, most of these addressing the priorities of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities (target of 3) 11 Advocacy campaign strategies and/or action started by OPDs: WBU- Marrakesh Treaty (Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Nigeria), inclusive education by II in Ghana, Ethiopia, Rwanda, DSI on inclusive employment in Rwanda, Nigeria, Kenya, and Uganda (target of 2 countries) 3 international development partners mobilized to address priorities of persons with deaf blindness: Sense International, Deafblind International, and Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA) (target of 2)	Report on persons with Deafblindness. Participant lists involved in workshops/mobilized related to persons with Deafblindness.

» Zoom in on the geographical distribution of some key activities



» Examples of key activities carried on

Focus - Training within Down Syndrome International's DSI project

The objective of the training was to build the capacity of OPDs to support self-advocates with Down syndrome to advocate for their rights using the CRPD and SDGs. To achieve this objective the training aimed to support them to develop an understanding rights-based approaches to development, increase their knowledge of the CRPD and SDGs, and reflect on their inclusivity of the voices of people with Down syndrome within their work. The training took part over six weeks, with six live workshops via GoToTraining and online work using a platform called Talent LMS. All live sessions were recorded and available afterwards. The sessions were characterized by interaction, discussions, and sharing of experiences. There were 15 participants in total (eight women and seven men), representing six DSI member organizations from five countries: Down Syndrome Society of Kenya, Down Syndrome Foundation Nigeria, Inclusion Uganda, Rwanda Down Syndrome Organization, Uganda Down Syndrome Association and Down Syndrome Society of Bangladesh.

Focus: Key workshops on women with disabilities

- Uganda, reaching underrepresented women with disabilities:** The workshop organized in Uganda by the women's umbrella OPD was an example of successfully reaching out to women from various underrepresented populations, including women from remote areas. This workshop was an excellent example of mobilizing women facilitators and supports from across geographic and thematic areas including from global

IDA members (WNUSP and WFDB), regional (ADF board member and fellow), programmatic staff (Inclusion Works program staff), and IDA Gender Fellow. This demonstrates how IDA and its members are coordinating together to strengthen the women with disabilities movement within Africa at the local, national, subregional and regional levels and ensuring that women who are furthest behind are included.

- Burkina Faso, dialogue with government on women's priorities:** At the beginning of April 2021, ADF together with its member West African Federation of Persons with Disabilities (WAFOD), organized a two-days' workshop to reflect on the participation and leadership of women with disabilities in political and public life in Africa. The workshops gathered civil society representatives, including OPDs and women' organizations, as well as representatives from the Burkinabe Ministry of Women, National Solidarity and the Family (*Ministère de la Femme, de la Solidarité nationale, et de la Famille*) to discuss the level of participation in political life of women with disabilities, including underrepresented groups; the main barriers and challenges hampering participation as well as good practices to reinforce representation of women with disabilities at all levels of governance.
- Ethiopia, workshop with women with disabilities:** In April 2021, as a part of a series of workshops held in Ethiopia, a component with women with disabilities was carried out (see Annex B for information). The purpose of the workshop with women was to build the capacity and full and effective participation of women with disabilities towards promotion of leadership among them, and the inclusion of issues pertaining to women with disabilities in both the mainstream women's movement as well as the disability movement. The workshop resulted in the following: OPDs had enhanced understanding of the CRPD, tactics for upcoming advocacy such as use of UN mechanisms including the African Charter on Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Global Disability Summit, and participants were able to connect with Government officials and NGOs in the mainstream women's movement to promote issues concerning women with disabilities.
- Kenya Festival of Events:** In October 2022, IDA and their partners coordinated a series of workshops and meetings with a focus on networking and building connections between and among underrepresented groups. These events included a four day Bridge CRPD-SDGs ToT Validation workshop, three day PANPPD Regional Workshop, two day meeting of groups and organizations of women with disabilities, two day Indigenous meeting, workshop and report launch, three day Marrakesh treaty workshop, two day AFDB General Assembly, two day Regional Workshop on the 2nd global report on deafblindness, and two day WFDB general assembly.



- Mozambique Festival of Events:** In November 2022, IDA and their partners coordinated a series of trainings, workshops and meetings with a focus on Portuguese speaking countries and inclusive of underrepresented groups. These events included Bridge CRPD-SDGs Portuguese speaking African Countries,

Finland CESCGR Grantees meeting, CESCGR workshop (Mozambique Angola), SDGs workshop (Mozambique Angola), a gender workshop and ADF Executive Committee meeting.

Focus – ADF’s Regional SDG report

An important source of evidence completed during this period is ADF’s regional SDG report from a CRPD perspective, entitled “African regional report on the implementation of the SDGs and the CRPD for women and girls with disabilities in Rwanda, Nigeria, Kenya, Mali and Niger”. The report, available [online](#) in both English and French, was developed through policy review and analysis by a Bridge CRPD-SDGs ToT alumni and integrated the findings and recommendations of national consultations and Focus Group Discussions with women with disabilities. This report seeks to understand and identify the gaps and barriers in implementing of five SDGs for women and girls with disabilities, and outlines reforms and measures needed to advance the rights of women and girls with disabilities in Africa. The report presents a set of recommendations related to health, inclusive and equitable quality education, gender equality, discriminatory attitudes, and global partnerships for sustainable development. One of the report’s wide spread recommendations across all thematic areas is the need for robust data on the situation of women and girls with disabilities, this was advocated for, and echoed within the [outcome document](#) of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Focus – Advocacy at the Regional African SDG Forum

At the regional level, the ADF regional SDG report from a CRPD perspective was used as an advocacy tool within the context of the regional African SDG forum held in March 2021 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). The African Disability Forum and IDA actively engaged throughout these sessions, monitoring, collecting and disseminating key information to organizations of persons with disabilities and our community of practice to support their participation to influence the prioritization of persons with disabilities in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.



Zoom on other activities financed by the project

3.3.2. Summary of findings and key recommendations related to EQ 3 (effectiveness)

Key successes

- › Most activities completed despite the different crisis
- › Adaptability of the project despite the Coronavirus situation
- › Strong engagement of IDA's team in organizing events

Limits

- › Necessary reduction of certain activities due to Covid
- › Limit and advantage of centralizing activities in common events (see below)

3.4. Evaluative question 4 : Efficiency

Efficiency	Q4. To what extent did the project organize all resources and techniques in a cost-effective manner, and what was the impact of the Covid-19 crisis?	• The intervention was implemented as cost-efficient as possible and on time. • The results were achieved with reasonable use of resources, while acknowledging extra costs required to ensure equity. • IDA was able to adapt action to changing scenarios/assumptions, in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic. • The project was conducted in accordance with the principle of equity and representativeness of all target groups.	• Documentary analysis: resources and budgetary documents, progress reports • Interviews with the project managers and key IDA members
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3.4.1. Key findings related to EQ 4 (Efficiency)

This evaluation was not intended as a financial audit or budgetary control of the program. This section therefore provides an overview of the efficiency issues in the specific context of the program, and how they were addressed by IDA and articulated with the other issues and success criteria.

» Quick overview on the budget distribution

The budget was divided relatively equally between activities carried out at the global level (including IDA salaries) and at the national and regional levels, in accordance with IDA's sponsorship program policy, which provides for increased direct support to OPDs (pillar 6 of IDA Strategic framework 2020-2023). In this second area, support has mainly been provided for Bridge CRPD-SDGs training and the organization of festival events (nearly 30% of total funding), direct support to IDA members (14%), and funding for fellowship programs (10%).

	TOTAL 2019-2022
DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (HQ and Global)	€ 2 550 756
1. Salaries IDA	€ 1 403 245
2. Salaries Members II, WBU, DSI, WFDB)	€ 426 969
3. Procurements:	€ 128 864
WFDB -good practices / Global Report on Deafblindness	€ 54 769
WBU - Marrakesh treaty training development / online version	€ 30 869
World Network Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP)-Good practices CRPD + advocacy toolkit	€ 10 500
II Website and toolkit for "Catalyst for Inclusive Education" and "Empower us"	€ 16 701
Website and webinars -WFDB	€ 16 025
4. Coordination Travels IDA and Members	€ 358 199
5. Hellen Keller Conference organised by WFDB (Africa)	€ 134 968
6. Audit and External Evaluation	€ 98 510
DIRECT PROJECT COSTS (Regional/national)	€ 2 645 883
1. Fellowship (II, ADF, WBU, WNUSP, WFDB, DSI, WFD, IFHOH, IDA)	€ 477 966
2. Support Thematics Festivals	€ 492 539
3. Members Activities (WFDB country level workshops, Marrakesh Treaty sessions, WNUSP/II/DSI activities)	€ 752 878
WFDB country level workshops	€ 86 905
WBU -Marrakesh Treaty Training Sessions (Regional and National Level)	€ 152 799
WNUSP - Activities	€ 159 655
II- Activities	€ 186 126
DSI- Activities	€ 167 394
4. BRIDGE	€ 922 499
TOTAL	€ 5 196 639

» Key efficiency challenges faced by the program: a context of multiple crisis

As already mentioned, there has been an **impact of the COVID-19 health crisis on the project**, with some of the activities adapted or delayed. However, we can also observe positive impacts of the crisis, with the deployment and reinforcement of remote coordination and communication means, which allow for the continuity of certain exchanges and partnerships.

It is important to emphasize here the strong resilience shown by IDA and all members in absorbing the difficulties and constraints of the health crisis. Despite the difficulties common to the subcontinent in terms of digital access and mastery of tools, a wide range of solutions and technical support were found to ensure maximum participation of stakeholders, and achievement of the set objectives.

Beyond the health crisis, the project is located in an area marked by **numerous conflicts and humanitarian crises**, which have a strong impact on social and economic development opportunities. During interviews, several participants mentioned the strong impact of these crises on people with disabilities: impairments due to armed conflicts, population movements, impacts on health infrastructures, drought and inundations, etc.

For example, an activist from a West African Country said:

Today the security context is very difficult, with the jihadist groups, and this changes the situation. We can no longer go everywhere. There are also many displaced people who have had to leave their villages, their fields, their small wealth, and leave to save their lives. They are gathered in small towns. This is a new type of vulnerability. This context makes our action very difficult.

One participant from a central African country insists on the impact of the internal crisis

My Country has suffered a lot with the recent conflict, especially the disabled. I know something about it, I have lost many people. In my town, I lived in the Muslim neighborhood during the riots, I got out safe and sound but I lost all my belongings. Today, due to the situation, the government's priorities are not social, but security, and sometimes health and education. But all this does not take into account the disabled.

Here again, IDA and its members have demonstrated their capacity for resilience while maintaining their ambitions for the participation of populations particularly affected by these crises. Beyond the underrepresented groups, it is worth noting the increasing participation of countries that were previously very little present and visible within the disability movement, particularly in the Central African zone and in the Portuguese-speaking countries. In this sense, the program has not limited itself to the "top of the basket" in terms of groups and contexts but has constantly endeavored to bring the most distant groups and countries into the regional dynamics supported by the program.

» One way to overcome barriers and increase impact: the “Festival Strategy”

During the NORAD-funded program, a new methodology emerged based on the organization of "festival type events", which consist of back-to-back workshops and meetings with a different focus, involving different members. During the evaluation, observation at the Kenya Festival and the Mozambique Festival helped to measure the impact of this model and its contribution to the achievement of program objectives.

Main successes and advantages

At first sight, this grouping of a set of events over the same period and in the same place made it possible to respond to certain constraints linked to the health crisis, notably the implementation of very different protocols depending on the country and the period. This approach has reduced the uncertainties in terms of administration and various authorizations. It has also allowed the establishment of sanitary protocols specific to the Festivals, supervised by IDA, guaranteeing optimum sanitary safety for the participants.

The festival methodology has also had important effects in terms of efficiency and limitation of financial and environmental costs. Indeed, by organizing simultaneous events involving some of the same people (including the IDA secretariat, trainers and facilitators, ADF and IDA global members representatives, and others), many transportation and accommodation costs could be reduced. The same is true for the time spent supporting visa and passport procedures for participants, some of whom are traveling outside their home country for the first time, as explained by a member of the IDA logistics team:

We face many challenges, notably with persons with disabilities from specific groups. They don't have regular access to internet, and live in remote areas, without means of transportation. Many of them don't have passports. that's why we make sure to take the time to do things, to understand the situation, to find specific solutions.

The investment of the IDA logistics team was also streamlined, by concentrating efforts on a more limited period. It is worth noting here that the team made strong efforts to strengthen the capacities of local organizations in the organization of events, although this depended on the complexity of the event and the resources present on site, as one of the team members indicated:

We are constantly speaking about capacity building of the local organizations to organize things and events. We are trying to do that as much as possible. This particular event in Kenya is particularly complex, we had to jump on it fully. But, for instance, in Mozambique, only one IDA team member will be here to support local teams. We always make sure that we have local persons involved.

A key moment on that matter was exactly after the corona. We had around 30 events to organized, and we couldn't travel. It's when the local teams organized everything with our support... It really pushed the capacity building dynamic.

And then in the same event, our support can be of different intensity depending on the event: for example, for the organization of its workshops and its general assembly, WFDB do not have a local team in Kenya. IDA gives the time for logistic, and we are service providers for them. But, last week and the week before, with another organization, we worked hand-on-hand with local teams.

Beyond these financial and logistical aspects, the festival method has played a major role in strengthening synergies and building union within the African disability movement.

As IDA mentions in its report on the festival in Kenya, the Festival model enables the involvement of more partners and members. Hosting back-to-back events also fosters synergies between different initiatives, and greater awareness raising from within the alliance (e.g., participation of IDA board members in a global technical consultation hosted in the same country the same week or hosting a workshop with a particular constituency prior to a Bridge CRPD-SDGs module). Regional and national actors that were not previously able to engage are now being reached, naturally leading to the development of greater interest and inclusive facilitation techniques, and quickly ramping up the standard for each iteration of the workshops.

Example: The Kenya Festival in 2021

From 25 November to 9 December 2021, the *Kenyan Festival* was set to support the disability rights movement to shape the development agenda in Sub-Saharan Africa towards the full and effective realization of all human rights of all persons with disabilities working towards the motto “*Nothing without us!*”.

By strengthening OPDs and building the capacity of disability rights activists, the *Kenyan Festival* contributed to ensuring stronger engagement and greater impact of persons with disabilities to influence the implementation of the SDGs in-line with the CRPD.

The workshops included the World Federation of The Deafblind (WFDB) Workshop, Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training of Trainers (in English and French), Marrakech Treaty Workshop, SDGs Reporting Workshop (in English and French), Global Disability Summit (GDS) Consultation, Training of Facilitators on Inclusive Education (in English and French), World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP)/Pan African Network of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities (PANPPD) Workshop, Training on Social Protection, and the African Youth Caucus Meeting (in English and French).

The *Kenyan Festival* supported the Leave No One Behind 2030 Agenda to influence development programs and initiatives throughout Africa. During the 15 days of the *Kenyan Festival* more than

440 people, from 33 African countries, including women, youth, and indigenous persons with disabilities, participated in nine workshops, which included key consultations, including the Consultation with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK) on its Disability Inclusion Strategy Refresh.

Challenges and future considerations

The festival model generates a set of very positive effects and has certain limitations that must be considered for the future.

The first constraint is linked to the temporal concentration of the events, and therefore to the spacing in time of the opportunities for the members of the movement to meet and work together. It seems important to us, in the methodology of the festivals, that face-to-face or on-line "post-festival" times be systematized within each country and each organization, to maintain the level of commitment of the participants, to support them in the implementation of the actions and projects evoked during the events, and to clarify key emergent issues. As mentioned above, several participants mentioned the "emptiness" they felt after certain events and the difficulty in transforming the lessons learned into concrete actions at the local or national level. This post-festival follow-up would require additional resources and means from donors.

The second point is the level of requirement, logistics and technicality that Festival-type events require. As mentioned above, these events involved a great deal of preparation beforehand, and implementation during the events. An important part of these tasks was carried out by the IDA team. The duplication of these events on a local or regional scale, supported by the organizations of the movement, requires a transfer of skills and a significant capacity building, which could be envisaged in the coming period. This work has already started with ADF and UDPK but will require more resources to be expanded to other actors.

» How to articulate efficiency issues and optimal accessibility of the events

Other ongoing challenges relate to inclusion and accessibility of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training. The training is an exemplar of efforts to include diverse and underrepresented groups of people with disabilities with creative accommodations and adaptations. Some of these accommodations include sign language interpretation, support staff, illustrators to visually communicate complex ideas, language translation and sensory breaks. However, a few participants commented that the pace of the training was challenging to maintain for some people, particularly people with psycho-social disabilities, intellectual disabilities and deafblindness. This has been an ongoing challenge for the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative as it operates within an inaccessible and socially exclusive world and covers complex concepts.

To address these concerns, the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training program included daily check ins with participants. Part of this process uses a 'Moodometer' to provide a space for participants to share their feedback on the content and processes each day of the training. Bridge trainers also debrief after each session to revise their processes based on participant feedback. The Bridge methodology also allows for 'resting areas' so participants from these groups can laid down and rest, while still being in the room and not losing the activities.

3.4.2. Recommendations linked to EQ 4 (Efficiency)

Key successes

- › Strong flexibility and capacities to adapt the budget and the processes to field's constraints.
- › Respect of the financial commitments
- › Good articulation with other grants

- › Development of the "Festival Strategy" which links efficiency and impact

Limits

- › Challenges in the sustainability of the Festival strategy without IDA's logistic support and expertise
- › Capacity building of regional and national members in maintaining the level of efficiency.

Recommendations

- › Capitalize on the "festival strategy", its methodology and its effects, and disseminate it within the African network as well as in other countries of intervention
- › Strengthen a reflection and receive the required financial support to ensure, beyond the Festival Strategy, the "convening power" dimension of IDA and the most efficient means of mobilization and synergy
- › Continue to expand the inclusion/hiring of local community members to support logistical planning and coordination in the festival location.

3.5. Evaluative question 5: Impact and sustainability

Impact and sustainability	Q5. Has the project been able to advance the strengthening of the disability movement in Africa and what activities have been the most impactful?	• The project been able to advance the strengthening of the disability movement in Africa, with effective and impactful strategies to contribute to advancing the rights of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities in Africa. • The partnership and coordination between IDA and its members is strengthened. • Activists with disabilities significantly developed and increased their empowerment, self-representation and advocacy skills, including within underrepresented groups, are now actively mobilized apart from the NORAD project to continue disability-inclusive development initiatives. • OPDs technical skills to leverage CRPD-compliant changes through reforms of laws, policy and programs and organize and coordinate their network were strengthened. • The leadership and representativity of underrepresented groups have increased. • The situation of persons with disabilities is better known (including marginalized groups), and good practices better documented. • Policies, programs and investments necessary to realize the human rights of persons with disabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa have been developed, implemented and monitored, enabling structural and sustainable changes. • States and international cooperation stakeholders have a better understanding in how to mainstream the rights of all persons with disabilities and the disability movement in Africa is in a stronger position to influence the development agenda. • Donor's investments in developing the capacities of OPDs as development partners increase. • Networking and cross-disability exchanges of African OPDs and development partners are fostered. • Good practices have been documented and are being disseminated. • Training of trainers enables the training process to continue after the end of the project.
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3.5.1. Key findings related to EQ 5

» The African Disability Forum: Emergence of a key regional influencer

The strengthening of ADF's capacity and the important changes that the organization has undergone during this period seemed particularly important to observe and analyze during the evaluation process. Indeed, the exploratory interviews revealed fundamental changes in the organization's structure, in its strategic planning, in its capacity to mobilize and support its member organizations, and in its openness to underrepresented groups.

ADF has played a major role in program governance. The program has met their objective of increasing capacity of the organization. For example, since the beginning of the program, ADF strategically recruits underrepresented groups in their partnerships and projects and are sharing the need for inclusion of underrepresented groups with their members and their members' members. According to participants, ADF's commitment to inclusion was greatly influenced by IDA.

Created in 2014, the African Disability Forum is a regional structure that, at the start of the project in 2019, was still unstructured and relatively fragile in organizational and strategic terms. While support for this structure was not centrally emphasized in the initial project, one of the findings of the evaluation is the very significant impact of the NORAD-funded project in the emergence of ADF as a key player at the regional level.

This support was in three key areas:

- Financial and human resources, coordinated by IDA's Operations and Finance Department
- Technical capacity building (particularly in terms of advocacy) and strengthening of the movement by increasing geographic and social scope. Coordinated by the IDA Capacity Building Unit.
- Technical expertise (ex: gender policy, mental health,), coordinated by the IDA Capacity Building Unit.

A strong evolution of financial and human resources

As mentioned, in 2019, ADF was a recent and still unstructured organization. It had 2 employees, and a single office based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Governance was relatively fragile, with strong internal questions about the capacity to have elected bodies in satisfactory conditions, and a relatively distant link with the members. At the time, ADF was mainly financed by one donor, the Wellspring Foundation, with a grant of \$100,000 USD per year.

In 2023, the situation has radically changed. Currently, ADF has about 20 staff members, spread over 3 offices (in Niger, South Africa and Ethiopia), allowing it to assert its pan-African dimension and to get closer to its members. The arrival of an experienced director and the holding of elections in 2019 (before the next ones in 2023) has strengthened internal governance and democratic bodies. The board meets at least once a year in person.

The financial model of the organization is beginning to stabilize. The organizational budget is now more than 1 million euros per year and relies on a greater diversity of funding (Wellspring; NORAD; Zoa; Mastercard Foundation....). Some support, such as that of the Dutch NGO ZOA, is long-term and structuring for the organization. This fundings permitted to conduct projects on issues of food security, health, education and livelihoods of persons with disabilities across Africa. These projects are being led by local OPDs in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Burundi, Uganda and Niger. These evolutions in ADF's infrastructure and resources contributes to the sustainability and continuity of IDA's program interventions.

However, it seems important to note the risks associated with this very rapid expansion of ADF. In many cases, this acceleration can lead to a "growth crisis" that must be anticipated and prevented. The risk is that ADF will not be able to cope with all its new responsibilities and projects and will not be able to meet all the expectations generated by its new positioning. For that matter, it is worth noting the important role played by NORAD funding in strengthening ADF. The NORAD grant has been seen and used as a structuring, multi-year grant that provides visibility and relative flexibility in the implementation of ADF's expansion strategy. The future of ADF will depend in large part on its ability to continue to mobilize this type of long-term support.

Strengthening the geographical coverage and the role of umbrella body

In addition to providing technical and financial support to ADF, the program allows the federation **to expand the numbers of members**. By the end of the program, ADF was working on a regular basis with about ten national federations in 52 African countries.

In addition, the program has helped to initiate strong dynamics into geographic areas where ADF has little presence. This is the case for Portuguese speaking countries. For example, one activist from Cape Verde said that the event organized in Maputo in November 2022 enabled him to establish contact with a member of ADF's board, although he had never previously had contact with the organization. The possibility for Cape Verdean associations to join ADF was then discussed.

Likewise, the president of another federation from a Portuguese speaking country insists on the role played by the program and networking on the structuring of the movement in the geographical area:

*" We made the proposal to unite and create a network of PALOP OPDs [Portuguese-speaking African countries], because there are too many linguistic limits and isolation to interact at the international level in particular. This organization would be a bit like the West African Federation. The Portuguese-speaking countries must better position themselves and use their influence, including within the movement itself. ADF has approved the idea and support from IDA is foreseen. The constituent assembly could take place at the time of the second Bridge module.
(...) The exchanges also opened up avenues for financing, as IDA provided lists. In fact, Guinea Bissau for example has very few potential partners because very few are present in the country due to the chronic instability of the country".*

It should be noted that this expansion to new areas also poses various challenges in terms of articulation and coordination between groups and people of different cultures and languages, and the proper consideration of the specificity of each context.

Despite these strong developments, ADF is still somewhat in the middle of the road regarding its role as an umbrella body and its recognition by local and national disability stakeholders. It seems that there is not yet a reflex on the part of national federations to integrate ADF and its bodies". Some may still tend to establish direct and exclusive links with international partners or funders, etc. This may be linked to a recognition still to be consolidated by international NGOs which are not yet sufficiently convinced of the added value of ADF in the structuring of the disability movement.

In addition, during the interviews conducted with local and national associations, it seemed that the role of ADF was not yet well identified, and that the Forum did not emerge as a key player in the development of local initiatives.

The challenge of technical expertise

One of the key roles of a regional organization such as ADF is to provide technical support and specific expertise to its members, enabling them to strengthen their advocacy capacities and become key players on the national and local scenes.

During the program, some of ADF's expertise has been strengthened, particularly in the areas of food security, education, gender, social protection, and knowledge on international legal frameworks.

However, it seems from the interviews conducted that this expertise still needs to be strengthened and enhanced, as well as the tools for disseminating this expertise through training and member support.

Focus: National development through the United Disabled Persons of Kenya

Similarly, at a national level, organizations such as United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) has increasingly gained access to resources from international and national donors to conduct advocacy on inclusive elections, employment, women's issues, among others. According to participants from UDPK, because of ADF and IDA "We have gained critical connections and been in spaces that we would not have been".

For example, in April 2022, IDA provided technical support for workshops on meaningful investment in OPDs and invited local UDPK members and county level OPDs, as well as representatives from various funding and donor agencies such as the Kenya government, UNICEF, USAID, Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office from the United Kingdom (FCDO), the UN, EU and international NGOs like CBM Global, Sightsavers, and Light for the World.

One former member of the board insists on the fact that donors recognize the increased inclusion of all persons with disabilities. As a result, UDPK has increased the number of donors and support.

» Ensuring sustainability through new activists: the Fellowship program, between individual empowerment and disability movement strengthening

IDA's Fellowship Program is a critical investment instrument for individual and OPD capacity building. Fellows are activists selected by IDA members or their members to contribute to their work and objectives while benefiting from a double mentorship of their organization and of IDA's Fellowship Program.

Since November 2019, through the NORAD project, **20 fellows based in Sub-Saharan African countries** have been recruited including 9 women, and 11 from other underrepresented groups. Fellows have been recruited in all areas of IDA members' work, including, for example, capacity building, advocacy, gender, employment, based on their priorities and in support of the achievement of their objectives and contribution to this project. This will both enrich the contributions of persons with disabilities to IDA members' initiatives while growing capacities within the disability rights movement in Africa.

To support IDA's strategy on intersectionality and underrepresented groups, investments have been made in movement mobilization through hiring 2 fellows from Africa with targeted mandates, including a fellow in Uganda (Matilda Apio, who is an indigenous woman with a disability) who is focused on contributing to the women's initiatives within the region; and a fellow in Kenya to focus on youth initiatives (Peter Ochieng, a person with

cerebral palsy). Furthermore, IDA members representing underrepresented groups⁴ of persons with disabilities each have fellows supported through NORAD (8 total in Africa) that are involved in supporting member activities while also contributing to diverse advocacy and capacity-building actions. These are vital investments in the disability movement within Africa to not only provide individuals with disabilities with professional development but to build a community of fellows across OPDs and across countries. One interviewee involved in a regional organization stated:

The role of the Fellows should be perpetuated, as they are members of the movement and well trained. Their involvement and visibility create a positive competition, a very important dynamic at all levels.

Research and knowledge development

One of the key tasks assigned to Fellows is to conduct research or studies on topics related to the situation of people with disabilities in sub-Saharan Africa. This work may be directly related to the production of official reports, but in other cases it may be more indirectly related to advocacy work. Fellows described how their fellowship strengthened their research skills and expanded their knowledge on key disability issues in their country and communities.

Fellows are involved in all aspects of the research process, from defining the research questions to developing data collection tools, analyzing the data, and writing the report. The interviews highlight certain difficulties related to the fact that the individuals most often have no experience in research, and do not always benefit, as part of their mission, from specific and systemic training or awareness of this work and its various stages: review of the existing literature; definition of the research questions; choice of the appropriate methodology; data collection and ethical position of the researcher; data analysis; production of a report and set up of recommendations; dissemination of results.

Thus, even if IDA and the organization hosting the Fellow provide significant support, but remains for some fellows limited with regard to the research process itself.

The data collection phase was particularly difficult for some Fellows, notably due to the Covid crisis and the curfews that occurred in several countries:

Data collection was very challenging. When on the field, the language issues were hard, it was difficult to communicate because of different ways of communication. The information you get is not really what you want. (...) We did the analysis alone, without specific support. IDA was following the overall process, especially S. [From IDA secretariat]. She was guiding us, monitoring the activities, the places visited. At the same time, [the regional organization] first supported me to apply to conduct the research, and we used to communicate with them, especially for reporting.

I received support from IDA, and [the host organization], but more from IDA to modify the report. I used to send them, they reviewed and send it again..... We had meetings to guide me. I did it my own, but I had strong support, especially from E., program officer. Also, a Kenyan Colleague, M., who helped me a lot, as well as T. [IDA secretariat].

Despite these difficulties, the Fellows we met emphasized the importance of this experience, and the many skills acquired. They also emphasize the impact in terms of self-confidence and empowerment.

⁴ DSi 1 fellow in Uganda (Simon Peter), IFHOH 2 fellows in Uganda (Moses Serwadda and Brender Wanyana); WFD 1 fellow in Kenya (Ashura Michael); WFDB 2 fellows in Uganda (Agnes Abukito and Mark Kato); and WNUSP 2 fellows in Uganda and Kenya (Dorothy Nakato and Samuel Macharia), II 2 fellows in Ethiopia and Zanzibar (Mihret Nigussie and Khayrun Khalid).

This research and experience have built my capacities in many ways. It has clearly empowered me.

Another fellow said:

I gained many skills with this fellowship. For instance, I learnt how to do a desk review and referencing, how to prepare webinars, to write a concept note, to speak in different forums [...]. Personally, this program and the other activities have improved my life because I've got these opportunities which have given me a meaningful life and reduced my mental health relapses – more than ever before.

The studies and research carried out within the framework of the Fellowships have different purposes: through their process, they allow the Fellows to specialize on a subject, and thus to reinforce the expertise of the organizations within which the mission is carried out. Thus, they aim at putting key issues on the agenda both within the disability movement and within local, regional or global public institutions. Some of the work is carried out directly to feed identified reports. But in other cases, the modes of use and channels of dissemination are not clearly identified by the Fellows, as mentioned by some of them:

"The report was presented to IDA. I think it will be reviewed in the global report on deaf blindness, but I'm not sure".

"I'm happy about the experience and the report, it can be of great use for IDA people and OPDs, to better understand the situation and how to improve situation. Important that these people are able to see what we got from this report, because it was covering persons with different disabilities. [...]. I did not have opportunities to present the report, I just sent it after getting the final version. I don't know anything beyond that".

It seems that the issues of dissemination and use of the work could be the subject of a more systematic method, proposed and worked on with the Fellows, in order to guarantee the impact of the research on the one hand, and on the other hand to allow the Fellows to valorize their work through various channels.

Economic impacts of fellowships

According to participants, the Fellowship program offers a reasonable income, which has a direct impact on the living conditions of the individuals but also on the recognition by their community and their families.

However, in several interviews, it emerged that fellows had to face constraints in the field, linked to the Covid context, that led them to advance money on their own budget, for example, to allow themselves or the interviewees to travel to the meeting point.

The research needed lots of movement and travel in the country to do the research and reach the concerned persons. Sometimes I had to manage that alone, with my own money.

We got some allowances, to meet up with PWDS, and gather the reports, and to pay interpreters [...]. For me, because maybe of the COVID, I remember going to the field was expensive, so for me waited for the money to come, and I paid all the people. So I paid a little money from my own. Moving was hard. The main challenge was COVID.

The remuneration policy for fellowships seems to be adapted and corresponds to the needs of the people and skills developed. In further funding requests for such projects, attention must be paid to the economic conditions of the research, so that they are as adapted as possible to the operational implementation of the protocols, including publication and dissemination.

» Beyond the Fellowship program: Strengthening the movement through new individual activists

Some of the interviews conducted during the evaluation were conducted on an ad hoc basis, without being planned in advance, following informal exchanges or requests from participants.

This flexible approach made it possible to meet with several people who were attending this type of event for the first time and who had not previously been aware of IDA and its members.

These meetings and interviews highlighted IDA's and members key role in identifying and soliciting people from underrepresented groups, who are active at the local or national level in the field of disability rights, but who are not well connected to national and regional federations.

While most people are identified through member organizations, IDA sometimes provides additional ad hoc support to ensure the broadest possible participation of underrepresented groups in the countries concerned. Thus, a participant in the Maputo Festival, from a Portuguese speaking country, describes himself as "rather self-made man," although he is involved in several associations.

"I didn't know IDA or ADF. I was contacted by T. from IDA through Whatsapp, who then invited me to this event. I then facilitated IDA's contact with other people in Angola, especially so that women could be invited: 2 for the Bridge, and 10 in all for the gender workshop. (...). With this event and the links created, I feel like I am joining and integrating the global system of inclusion, the "real" inclusion movement. It's a real mindset shift for me.

A participant from a western African country was also identified and contacted by IDA, who linked him to a regional organization.

I stopped study at O level, and then I wanted to study but I had limitation. I had to build my experience. I knew IDA even before getting involved in the national parents' association of children with deafblindness. IDA was seeking for individuals with Deafblindness, and they identified me, because I had few activities with local association. I did the Bridge training three cycles, and a fellowship with [a regional organization]. IDA linked me to the organization, and made me the person who I am today, fully confident and autonomous. This transformed me into a person who can lead youth with disabilities in training and so, sharing experiences. It enabled me to advocate for accessibility of communication means, information, for children to access education equally. Initially I didn't have experiences, that's why they trained me about many things. Specially the bridge program move me to another level.

Thus, IDA and its members play a crucial role in the dynamics of the African movement, progressively widening the networks, by integrating people who are sometimes far from the associative movement. This multiplication of channels in the consolidation of the movement allows to maintain a positive dynamic and limits the risks of stagnation of the associations or of organization fixed around one or several historical founders.

» The work on SDGs: Towards a long-term impact

The formative years of IDA were predominantly spent on advocating for the CRPD, but in the last decade IDA's role has evolved significantly. Using the CRPD as the cornerstone of its work and building more recently on the SDGs, IDA has been shifting its advocacy from 'why to include people with disabilities' in development

and human rights to more technical debates on 'how to include *all* groups of persons with disabilities'. As mentioned by a participant from the Kenya Festival, this goes with the transformation of the motto "nothing about us without us" to "nothing without us".

A movement initiated on a global scale by IDA members.

Indeed, at international level, IDA and its members decided to support OPDs to increase their capacities to engage fully with national, regional and international SDGs and human rights monitoring processes and strengthen their advocacy through building robust evidence.

Since then, IDA members both at the regional and national level have undertaken writing comprehensive, evidence-based reports to provide a substantive understanding of how the SDGs are being implemented at the national or regional level for persons with disabilities in line with the CRPD. All six of IDA's regional members volunteered to develop reports and national level members of members applied throughout their global or regional IDA members.

Both the regional and national reports were developed and led by OPDs, and thus highlighted different thematic areas, reflected national and regional priorities, and collected data with different methodologies.

Whilst being directed by OPDs, the reports had two requirements:

- › To have a cross-disability perspective
- › To include a section on women and girls with disabilities

In sub-Saharan Africa, a dynamic that is becoming more structured

To strengthen the place of the SDGs in the advocacy actions carried out by regional, national or local organizations, IDA has put in place a multi-pronged strategy, based on training, studies and research, production of reports and direct interventions with public decision makers.

Training on SDGs via Bridge CRPD-SDGs Modules.

In December 2021, in the frame of the NORAD funded project, 329 activists with disabilities have been trained on CRPD and SDGs and ways to operationalize the CRPD through the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training (completed cycle of module 1+2) (at minimum 40% of participants are women with disabilities and 30% are persons with disabilities from underrepresented groups).

Because Bridge CRPD - SDG training was evaluated previously, this evaluation did not include a specific in-depth analysis of this component,

The production of specific reports

The NORAD-funded project has supported a significant number of reports on the implementation of the SDGs in line with the CRPD, notably:

- 1 expanded African report produced by OPDs documents the best available evidence on the situation of persons with disabilities to monitor progress and provides recommendations on how to best achieve the SDGs for persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups.
- 1 regional report produced by ADF on the SDGs from a CRPD perspective focused on the situation of women with disabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- 11 national SDG report from a CRPD perspective were produced by OPDs in Africa –
 - › 3 were completed between 2019 and 2021: Kenya, Niger, Rwanda.

- › 7 more were completed in 2022: Cape Verde, Zimbabwe, Togo, Benin, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso. 3 are co-funded by Finland and FCDO.
- › 1 new version of the Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness including good practices and recommendations to operationalize the priorities of the initial report have been produced and disseminated

Focus on the ADF regional report on the implementation of the SDGs and the CRPD for women and girls with disabilities in Rwanda, Nigeria, Kenya, Mali and Niger

This 292-page report focuses specifically on 5 SDGs, and analyzes how they are implemented in the five countries observed:

- › SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all people at all ages
- › SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- › SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- › SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- › SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The report is built around a country-by-country analysis, which includes a review of the legal and policy frameworks for each SG, as well as a synthesis of findings from focus groups with national associations (Malian Union of Associations and Committees of Disabled Women (UMAFH), network of Rwandan women with disabilities, Niger network of women with disabilities,).

A specific chapter is devoted to the legal and political framework of the African Union.

Finally, the report includes a set of cross-cutting recommendations for the concrete implementation of each of the SDGs analyzed.

VNRs as an advocacy vehicle

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven" (paragraph 79). These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.

The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The NORAD-funded program has helped strengthen coordination among OPDs and participation of OPDs within the SDGs parallel reporting process.

One of the first steps for ADF was to produce a **detailed analysis of the VNR reports in Africa** to measure their inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities. This report, produced in 2021, measures the progress made by the concerned African countries in 2020 with regards to referencing persons with disabilities. These data were then updated. The latest available data show that:

- › Of all global VNRs in 2021 95% (42 out of 44) contained references to persons with disabilities. A qualitative analysis report of the African VNRs will be submitted with the final report to NORAD
- › Of all African VNR in 2022, 100% (21 out of 21) contained references to persons with disabilities.

While this report feeds into regional advocacy for the inclusion of people with disabilities in the SDG monitoring processes, it is also an important lever for action in each of the countries concerned for local and national organizations.

Key successes according to African activists

The progressive adoption of the SDGs by the disability movement in Africa is a major challenge for IDA, aiming to go beyond advocacy focused solely on the CRPD to better articulate the two texts, and to make the rights of people with disabilities essential in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs.

At the regional and local levels, IDA members and partner organizations note the leverage that the adoption of the SDGs by the disability movement has represented in increased links with public actors. Thus, a member of ADF explains:

In Niger and other countries, organizations have succeeded in developing knowledge and capacity in their own governments, through their work on SDGs. This legitimizes OPDs as true actors in civic life. For instance, the report on the implementation of the SDGs (Niger, 2018) was used by the government to go to different international forums. For example, the government has taken ownership of the link between SDG Goal 3 and CRPD Goal 25, or SDG Goal 4 with CRPD Goal 24.

In Maputo, one participant explained the importance of the SDG report process for his advocacy work:

ADEVIC coordinated the development of the SDG report in 2021-2022, supported through the NORAD's grant. IDA provided technical support from a distance and resources to cover expenses (transportation, training, interpreters, etc.). This was the first report and we gained experience that will be useful to improve the report next time. This report helps to support advocacy within the movement but also at the level of decision makers. To me, it is an advocacy weapon.

In Kenya, for instance, UDPK and its members are strongly involved in development of reports on the CRPD and SDGs and development of other guidelines for inclusion which have allowed the movement to progressively occupy an essential place in the policy making process. Indeed, the organization participated in High Level Political Review, *and was* Involved when Kenya was being reviewed for SDGs (2018/2019). **UDPK** worked with government to create a plan for implementation of SDGs and was involved in the elaboration phase of the national census.

The challenges identified

If the SDGs are identified as an essential advocacy lever for the disability movement, some limitations are pointed out by the members of the organizations we met. Thus, several people mentioned the difficulty of appropriating certain terms and concepts specific to the SDGs, for people who are sometimes very far from these approaches. For example, a representative of a national OPD explained:

There are many challenges of translating the SDG language into local realities and vice versa [...]. SDG reports are high level at the national level, and are not in the language of communities and the situation on the ground... in addition SDG targets are complex and it is not clear how to localize this and simplify at the local level... we really need to put this in a language that communities understand.

For this participant, another limit is due to the fact that “reporting is quantitative in terms of targets, but local level experiences are qualitative and not always captured in the reports”.

In addition, some challenges were pointed regarding the planning to support OPDs in developing the report.

The period is very short to produce the report and does not match necessarily with the funding period and commitments in terms of deliverables toward the donor. This implies strong agility and commitment from IDA to find the right balance.

For other participants, the SDGs report is an advocacy tool to mainstream disability issues in the development agenda. It requires dialogue within and across social movements.

For some OPDs, it is also true that COVID highlighted more urgent demands or vital needs than working on SDGs reports.

The challenge of disseminating research results

Evaluation interviews and observations revealed a strong theme around the need for more data and evidence to support advocacy. There are also clear gaps and a dearth of literature and previous research about the lived experiences of persons with disabilities (especially underrepresented groups) in Africa.

The program has responded to this need, through various initiatives. For example, knowledge production is clearly happening (e.g., climate change research with indigenous persons in Kenya; Fellows conduct research and write papers; all Bridge participants complete assignments after their training), but the interviews highlight a set of questions about the publication and dissemination of this research. As we have seen, fellows are unclear about whether the research will be published, in what form, and with what dissemination. Similarly, Bridge participants are unclear about the fate of their work.

A participant member of a national OPD representing an underrepresented group insists on the challenge of disseminating results of the trainings and workshops:

“Now (following the Bridge training and the Maputo event) my challenge is to disseminate the knowledge acquired here to people with disabilities in my country. But in order to really multiply the results, we need to have access to specific financial resources, which we do not have (...). We also need to work with decision-makers so that they commit themselves to the implementation of the convention. We currently have a project with the African Union of the Blind on this subject, and this training gives me good ingredients to think about this project”.

Another participant from a western African country said:

The problem is when we come back after the trainings, and how to put it into practice. For example, the Bridge training in 2021, to practice afterwards was not obvious. You have to make applications to get the hang of it, but we didn't have the resources for that. So there is a loss afterwards. Maybe we also need more reinforcement on the search for funding, because that is not present at all.

But some participants point out that disseminating knowledge requires a certain level of technicality and experience and raise the question of how to select participants. For example, a participant in the Bridge training and the Maputo festival said:

“In my opinion, there is too much heterogeneity among the participants and therefore the objectives of each are very different. The selection of participants should have been based more on the recommendations of the leaders of the organizations and federations, because they know the people and their level. Some of the participants do not have the real capacity to make a good restitution of the training to the other members of their organization, which raises questions.”

On the other hand, some participants noted that Bridge Alumni and Fellows are hired by INGOs and global OPDs which means they are potentially disconnected from the grassroots. They can still have an impact at higher levels,

but there are concerns about who is benefitting from the knowledge gained through Bridge and other activities, and how it is supporting the development of local communities.

Challenges related to the funding of local actions.

Participants described the ongoing challenges of seeking and obtaining funding to support their advocacy efforts. Many OPDs have limited technical and human resources to engage in most proposal development processes and grant applications designed by donors and funding agencies. Moreover, many donors support umbrella organizations that include people with various disabilities. This can make access to funding difficult and stressful for persons with disabilities from underrepresented groups who have been historically marginalized in these organizations.

3.5.2. Summary of findings, and key Recommendations linked to EQ 5 (Impact and sustainability).

Key successes

- › Strong evolution and reinforcement of ADF as a regional platform.
- › New place given to under-represented groups.
- › Growing role of women with disabilities within the movement.
- › « Technization » of specific advocacy initiatives (Ex : Marrakesh Treaty).
- › Key role of fellows in strengthening regional and national dynamics.
- › Strong links between individual empowerment and strengthening of the movement at all levels (regional, national, local).

Limits

- › Still spaces to reinforce the visibility and role of ADF towards local OPDs in the African continent.
- › Still spaces to improve the impact of fellowships.
- › Issues related to the extreme diversity of organizations and local and national contexts which implies an important time to take into account the specific contexts and stakes of each one.
- › Issues in disseminating the results of researches and studies.

Recommendations

Recommendations linked to the support to ADF

- › Support the implementation of long-term structuring financing, even for smaller amounts.
- › Continue to provide technical expertise, particularly on gender, climate issues and indigenous groups, in order to strengthen the added value of ADF for its members.
- › Support the development of the organization in sub-regions that are not yet well represented in the disability movement, particularly in Portuguese-speaking countries and Southern Africa and Central Africa.
- › To consider strategic links between ADF and regional federations on the continent, notably AODP (Arab organization of disabled people) which has strong expertise as an umbrella body, and Regional chapters of IDA Global members such as Inclusion Africa, African Union of the blind.

Recommendations on the Fellowship Program.

- › Develop a systemic induction process for Fellows, that includes a light training on research methodology, ethic and approaches.
- › Better support the local or regional organizations in managing fellows

- › Initiate a reflection on the increase of the duration of the fellowship (many recommendations on a minimum duration of one year)
- › Review the budgets and resources specifically dedicated to the research conducted, including reimbursements for interviewees, and publication and media production costs.
- › Conduct a collective reflection with former Fellows on post-fellowship support

Recommendations on the dissemination of studies and research

- › Develop or review strategy to support knowledge production
- › Create strategic partnership with research organization such as FIRA (International Foundation for Applied Research on disability / France), for a systemic support on publicization and dissemination of results.
- › Ensure a systematic publication of results (Working papers).

4. Synthesis of recommendations

Recommendations in terms of internal and external coherence

With consideration of future projects and programs we identify the following avenues to strengthen the impact of IDA and its partners:

In the program definition phase:

- Ensure a fruitful dialogue between regional, national and local organization to better guaranty the articulation between the three scales of action.
- Ensure the full participation of underrepresented groups, particularly by allowing time for negotiations and exchanges and by adapting all means of communication.
- Strengthen the geographic coverage of the program by including areas that are not yet or are insufficiently covered (Central Africa, Portuguese-speaking countries,)
- Consider in the definition of the program more South-South exchanges, from countries that have developed a strong expertise in the topics explored (Kenya for example) and from North African countries that are currently not integrated in the program (Morocco, Algeria in particular).

In the implementation phase:

- Incorporate a mid-term evaluation or mid-term progress report event shared with all stakeholders.
- To set up a forum of knowledge exchange about the program allowing a better identification of the program and another modality of exchange of practices and knowledge between organizations

Recommendations in terms of relevance

- › **Amplify knowledge mobilization and awareness of strategies to connect the global with the national and local.** Our evaluation reveals numerous examples of how participants have mobilized knowledge and connections they made during the programme to develop initiatives in their communities and conduct effective advocacy. Some participants suggested there is a need for more information and guidance about how IDA's activities can affect change at the national and local levels. We recommend sharing practical examples of knowledge mobilization shared throughout this report to demonstrate how to realize rights in practice and connect to the grassroots. For example, participants have engaged with their local governments to increase disability awareness and inclusion

in policy making and budgeting, advocated for the rights of local people with disabilities within their indigenous communities and health and social service sector institutions (e.g., schools, hospitals, police), as well started their own local grassroots OPDs.

- › **Coordinate validation workshops specifically for people with intellectual disabilities, deafblindness, and psychosocial disabilities.** Several participants suggested that each of these groups have unique needs, interests and priorities that could be supported in separate Bridge validation workshops. A workshop for some groups could increase how their input is gathered and incorporated into the Bridge CRPD-SDGs curriculum. Our findings indicate that this work has been done in terms of considering the diverse needs of persons from underrepresented groups. Bridge CRPD-SDGs is an evolving programme with staff that embrace continuous improvement, and this is one way in which to realize the value of continuous improvement. This should also be supported by the donors, as it increases the inclusive structure to implement Bridge CRPD-SDGs trainings.
- › **Continue to advocate for reasonable funding requirements by donors to promote equitable access to funds for OPDs with varying levels of capacity.** This would involve providing technical support to donors to make reporting requirements more accessible. We also recommend leveraging relationships with donors to promote the benefits of providing seed money to OPDs to support further fundraising, which could be implemented through micro-grants processes.
- › In addition, ***allow for a co-creation phase in project plans, with permitted budget lines to allow all stakeholders to be fully involved in the project design process from the beginning.*** This is of course linked to the strategy of IDA donors and supports to allow the inclusion of this type of activity in the framework of projects or programs.

Recommendations in terms of efficiency

- › Capitalize on the "festival strategy", its methodology and its effects, and disseminate it within the African network as well as in other countries of intervention.
- › Strengthen a reflection and receive the required financial support to ensure, beyond the Festival Strategy, the "convening power" dimension of IDA and the most efficient means of mobilization and synergy.
- › Continue to expand the inclusion/hiring of local community members to support logistical planning and coordination in the festival location.

Recommendations in terms of impacts and sustainability

Recommendations linked to the support to ADF

- › Support the implementation of long-term structuring financing, even for smaller amounts.
- › Continue to provide technical expertise, particularly on gender, climate issues and indigenous groups, in order to strengthen the added value of ADF for its members.
- › Support the development of the organization in sub-regions that are not yet well represented in the disability movement, particularly in Portuguese-speaking countries and Southern Africa and Central Africa.
- › To consider strategic links between ADF and regional federations on the continent, notably AODP (Arab organization of disabled people) which has strong expertise as an umbrella body, and Regional chapters of IDA Global members such as Inclusion Africa, African Union of the blind.

Recommendations on the Fellowship Program.

- › Develop a systemic induction process for Fellows, that includes a light training on research methodology, ethic and approaches.

- › Better support the local or regional organizations in managing fellows
- › Initiate a reflection on the increase of the duration of the fellowship (many recommendations on a minimum duration of one year)
- › Review the budgets and resources specifically dedicated to the research conducted, including reimbursements for interviewees, and publication and media production costs.
- › Conduct a collective reflection with former Fellows on post-fellowship support.

Recommendations on the dissemination of studies and research

- › Develop or review strategy to support knowledge production.
- › Create strategic partnership with research organization such as FIRA (International Foundation for Applied Research on disability / France), for a systemic support on publicization and dissemination of results.
- › Ensure a systematic publication of results (Working papers).

5. Annexes

5.1. Interview grids

The interview grids presented below are a first proposal based on the first framing interviews realized. They will be adapted and then declined into the different set of actors, following feedback from the key stakeholders interviewed and the major methodological choices that will be made at the end of the inception phase.

5.1.1. Preamble for any interviewee

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this interview today.

The purpose of this interview is to understand your experiences with the Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa program. We are interested in learning what has worked well, and how, as well as what has not worked well, and why. We are also interested in learning about what should be done to develop the program for the future.

There are no right or wrong answers; we are simply curious about your reflections on the program. You do not need to answer questions that you do not want to answer or that make you feel uncomfortable. Your participation is entirely voluntary; you may also choose to stop participating in this interview at any time without consequence. You may conclude the interview at any time and ask that any information given be struck from the record. If you decide not to participate in or withdraw from the study, any data you have provided will be securely destroyed.

With your permission, we will be recording the interview to supplement our written notes to improve accuracy. Every effort will be made to protect your confidentiality and privacy, and the confidentiality of the interview material. We will not use your name or any information that would allow you to be identified. However, people are often identifiable through the stories they tell and since the disability community can be small, others may be able to identify you on the basis of statements you make. Please keep this in mind in deciding what to tell us.

Do you have any questions before we get started?

Thank you for agreeing to take part in this interview today.

In this interview we want to learn about your experiences with the Making OPDs Equal Partners of Inclusive Development in Africa program. We want to learn about the activities that happened during the program, what worked well, and what did not work well. We also want to find out what can be done to expand or improve the program for the future.

There are no right or wrong answers in the interview. We just want to know what you think about the program. We want you to feel comfortable doing the interview. We make note of the following for you.

- *You do not have to answer questions that you do not want to answer.*
- *You do not have to answer questions that make you feel uncomfortable.*
- *You are volunteering to take part in this interview. You can stop at any time.*
- *If you want to stop, you can ask for your information to be removed.*
- *If you decide not to do the interview, your information will be destroyed.*

- *If you decide to leave the study, your information will be destroyed.*

We would like your permission to record this interview. This will help us to be exact with the information you give. We will protect your privacy. This means that nobody will know this information was collected from you. We will not use your name. We will not use your contact information. We will do our best to protect your privacy.

But please note the following. The disability community can be small. Others may be able to identify you based on the information or stories you give. Please keep this in mind as you decide what to tell us in this interview.

Do you have any questions before we get started?

5.1.2. Key stakeholders interview grid

Presentation

- Can you please present yourself and your organization?
- Is you or your organization generally involved in disability programs at the national, regional or global? Are you used to work with other partners, Donors?
- How would you describe your position in the global disability right-movement? (strong, underrepresented)
- What are the difficulties you can face in your daily missions and that limits targeted impact?
- What are the key staked the disability right movements faces in Africa?

Project design

- Can you briefly describe the role of the organization in the project? And your specific role?
- What motivated you to get involved in this program?
- What is your general vision of the project design?

Project implementation

- In what program activities you have been involved in?
 - › What did you hope to achieve?
 - › What benefits did you expect to receive?
 - › When you got involved, were you looking for a solution to a specific problem or were you more broadly interested in strengthening the disability right movement?
- What is your general vision regarding the implementation of these activities: was it successful? If so, what were the key success factors (different actors' contribution, internal organizational factors at IDA, governance, accessibility features, etc.)
- Did you face any difficulties? To the best of your knowledge, have there been any changes to the program since it was established?
- What was the specific impact of the Covid-19 crisis?
- Were the underrepresented groups well represented in the project's activities?
- Did the activities finally met your expectations, or would you do things differently in a future project?

Outcomes

- Have you or your organization been able to use the knowledge or other resources that you have gained by participating in the project? Please explain. If no, why not? If yes, how?

- › Probe for details of advocacy activities, training others, efforts to change policies and laws, raising public awareness of disability issues, fund raising, network building, etc.
- › New connections made with people or organization
- › Global strengthening of your organization or at the individual level
- › How are these activities connected to other initiatives you are involved in?
- › What challenges have you experienced?
- In your opinion, how effective do you think the program has been in the following:
 - › building the collective capacity of the movement to advocate for better visibility and leadership of the disability-right movements including underrepresented groups, and increased implementation of the SDGs in compliance with the CRPD, and development of inclusive policies and programs
 - › increasing the number of skilled OPD advocates and leaders, who can take action and challenge the status quo
 - › engaging global and regional umbrella organizations for persons with disabilities at global level
 - › engaging local and national OPDs in their home country/national level
 - › engaging diverse OPDs representing people from underrepresented groups
 - › engaging underrepresented groups of people with disabilities (women and girls with disabilities, Persons with deafblindness, Persons with intellectual disabilities, Persons with psychosocial disabilities, Other groups such as persons with albinism or indigenous persons with disabilities, youth)
 - › creating a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for the sharing of knowledge and expertise
- Overall, what are the most important outcomes or benefits that have resulted from the project?
 - › Are there other factors or circumstances that you think contributed to the success (or limitations) of the project? Please explain.
 - › Do you think the results were consistent across all geographic areas? Have certain geographic areas posed specific challenges? If yes, which ones?
- What are your suggestions on how to improve future new projects or activities led by IDA?

Conclusion

- Do you have anything else that you would like to add?
 - › What is the most important point you want to make sure I remember from conversation today?
- Do you have any final questions or comments for us about the evaluation?

5.1.3. Interview grid for trainees (including Bridge CRPD-SDGs programs)

Participant background

- Tell me a little bit about yourself
 - › What country and city are you from?
 - › Are you affiliated with an organization(s) If so, which organization(s) and what do they do? How long have you been involved with this organization? What is your position/role?
 - › How long have you been involved in the disability movement? How have you been involved? What organizations, if any, have you been involved with and what were your roles/position?
 - › Do you identify as a person with a disability? If so, how would you describe your disability?
 - › How old are you and from which country do you come from?

Program participation

- When did you first get involved in the training program?

- › How did you get involved?
- Can you briefly describe how you have been involved?
- What motivated you to participate in this program?
 - › What did you hope to achieve or gain?
 - › What benefits did you expect to receive?
 - › Were you looking for a solution to a specific problem or were you more broadly interested in expanding your knowledge or expertise?
- In what way(s) has the training met your expectations and/or needs? Please explain.
- In what way(s) has training not met your expectations and/or needs? Please explain.

Level of satisfaction with the training process:

- How satisfied were you with the training overall?
 - › How satisfied were you with the:
 - › Content, themes, topics and subjects
 - › Duration of the training
 - › Facilitation methods
 - › Accessibility of the training
- What are your suggestions for improving this training, both in terms of content and organization?

Outcomes

- Have you been able to use the knowledge or other resources that you have gained by participating in the training? Please explain. If no, why not? If yes, how?
 - › Probe for details of advocacy activities, training others, efforts to change policies and laws, raising public awareness of disability issues, fund raising, network building, etc.
 - › How are these activities connected to other initiatives you are involved in?
 - › What challenges have you experienced?
- Have you benefited on an individual or personal level from participating in the training? Please explain.
 - › Have you made new connections with other people or organizations? If so, what types of connections and with whom?
 - › Do you feel the training impacted your level of civic activity within and outside your organization? Did you change your scale of intervention (from local to the national level for example)?
- If applicable: Has your organization benefited from the knowledge or resources offered by the training? Please explain.
- Overall, what are the most important outcomes or benefits that have resulted from the training?
 - › Are there other factors or circumstances that you think contributed to these outcomes?

Conclusion

- Do you have anything else that you would like to add?
 - › What is the most important point you want to make sure I remember from conversation today?
- Do you have any final questions or comments for us about the evaluation?

