International Disability Alliance

Disability Data Advocacy Consultancy - Terms of Reference

International Disability Alliance

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) is an alliance of eight global and six regional organisations of persons with disabilities. We advocate at the UN for a more inclusive global environment for persons with disabilities and their organisations. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is our touchstone. We are invested in ensuring that the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals are inclusive and in line with CRPD. We support organisations of persons with disabilities worldwide to take part in UN and international human rights processes, and use international accountability mechanisms. With member organisations globally, IDA represents the estimated one billion people worldwide with disabilities. This is the world’s largest and most frequently overlooked marginalised group.

Disability Data Advocacy Toolkit

The disability data advocacy toolkit was produced and launched in 2020 by the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities, the International Disability Alliance, and CBM Global Disability Inclusion. The toolkit highlights the need for data to understand the real situation of persons with disabilities and to identify gaps that are not addressed through policies and, at the same time, to provide examples of successes. In addition, the toolkit explores how to analyze, use, and trust data for creating advocacy messaging. The toolkit is available in Arabic, Easy Read, English, French, Spanish, and International Sign.

Disability Data Initiative

National statistics offices rarely disaggregate statistics by disability status and there is no international organization that consistently uses internationally comparable data to produce statistics on the situation of adults with disabilities and their families. This has contributed to persons with disabilities’ being often invisible in human rights and development policy debates. The Disability
Data Initiative aims to contribute to close the disability data gap by making internationally comparable data on disability publicly available and accessible, and with this data, inform debates and facilitate policy studies. It was launched in 2021 by Fordham University. Each year, DDI produces a report that (i) conducts a systematic analysis of the disability questions in national censuses and household surveys and (ii) produces statistics that document the extent to which disability rights are achieved. Each report includes a narrative, tables and country briefs. The summary is available in Easy read, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

**Background**

Disability data are needed to understand the real situation of persons with disabilities to identify gaps that are not addressed through policies and to provide examples of success. This is beneficial for evidence-based advocacy and to influence decision makers to address the most urgent actions at national, regional, and global levels. Data advocacy efforts must be done in authentic partnership with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) since OPDs must play a meaningful role in the data value chain. Citizen-generated data produced by OPDs, both qualitative and quantitative, can fill data gaps and complement official statistics, particularly in the monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Despite the progress in recent years to include persons with disabilities on the global development and humanitarian agenda, that has generated commitments towards disability-inclusive policies, programs and practices, there remain disability data gaps. There are various examples of data gaps and consequences. Such as the lack of disability data to monitor the progress of the SDGs for persons with disabilities, the lack of disability data to understand the situation for persons with disabilities around COVID-19, migrants, IDPs, and refugees with disabilities, and those in emergency settings, among others. This data gap is especially evident in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, in which out of 10 SDG indicators that require data disaggregation by disability status, data are available for only 2 of them, which was emphasized in the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022. Lack of data in these situations can create dire consequences for persons with disabilities, such as during the Covid-19 pandemic.

To address these data gaps, we need to build data literacy among OPDs. Furthermore, we need to highlight evidence and gaps in the framework to build on advocacy for the Summit of the Future and beyond the 2030 Agenda. This consultancy has three parts to address these gaps and to build evidence.


**Objectives**

There are three parts of this consultancy all aimed at gaining a better understanding of available data and gaps and building data literacy of OPDs at the national and subnational levels.

**Objective 1: Carry out an assessment of the disability data advocacy toolkit** to better understand what tools are being used and where to develop further

- Carry out a survey to assess the disability data advocacy toolkit to learn (1) how it’s being used, (2) what has been useful, (3) what areas can be improved, and (4) what new case studies to add.

**Deliverables for objective 1:**
- Put together a survey with questions on the above.
- Facilitate the survey responses, analyze the findings, and compile into a report.
- Provide recommendations in the report on how to update and improve the toolkit and also ways it can be used more effectively and to reach a wider audience.

**Timeline for objective 1:**
10-13 days, start in August and finish by early October.
Additionally, 1-2 days for accessibility checks of the report.

**Objective 2: Gather case studies around disability data** with the long-term goal to build evidence for advocacy toward the Summit of the Future and beyond work

- Especially look for case studies with OPD-led data efforts, and qualitative data to show the importance of citizen-generated data to complement official statistics.

**Deliverables for objective 2:**
- Put out a call for and gather case studies led by organizations of persons with disabilities around data.
- Analyze survey findings and put together report on gaps, barriers, and enablers to inclusion for persons with disabilities. In the report indicate what kind of data are being used, what can be used effectively, what data need to be used.

**Timeline for objective 2:**
Timeline: 10 days, start in August and finish by early October. Additionally, 1-2 days for accessibility checks of the report.

**Objective 3:** To make the DDI results understandable and usable for OPDs at the national and subnational levels

- There is a need to disseminate DDI results to a variety of stakeholders in disability and non-disability-specific fora. This work will help to disseminate DDI results to OPDs.

**Deliverables for objective 3:**

- Create an accessible, easy to understand guide on how to gather and use the results from the DDI.
- Take the DDI results from tables and transform them into an accessible narrative with infographics (in PDF format) for OPDs using results for one country at the national and subnational levels as an example. DDI results include both statistics and information on the inclusion of disability questions in surveys and censuses.

**Timeline for objective 3:**

10-15 days for consultant and 1-3 days for accessibility consultant to check, start in August and finish by early October.

**Approach**

Objectives 1 and 2 will be managed by CBM Global Disability Inclusion in partnership with IDA.

Objective 3 will be managed by CBM Global Disability Inclusion and Fordham University in partnership with IDA.

All deliverables should be completed by early October 2023.

**Qualifications**

The consultant applying for this consultancy should offer the following experience/expertise:

- A degree in economics, public policy, disability studies, human rights, international development, or equivalent in a relevant field
- Demonstrated knowledge of project engineering, international cooperation funding mechanism, preferably in human rights
- Advanced knowledge and experience of working with organizations of persons with disabilities and/or organizations representing excluded groups
• Excellent analytical skills, ability to read political dynamics and power relations, and to manage information maintaining adequate levels of confidentiality
• Commitment to a rights-based approach, and demonstrated interest in and knowledge of the rights of persons with disabilities
• Excellent written skills and capacity to produce a high-quality written research report in English

Persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

Contracting and Remuneration

• A consultancy contract (as per Swiss Code of Obligations (CO) and in particular the articles 394 and forth of the CO) will be signed between the selected consultant and IDA
• Only applicant with valid commercial and/or consultant registration and/or tax numbers will be considered.
• Payments will be made in several instalments and upon successful completion of the deliverables and submission of invoices
• Travel costs and potential costs of accessible webinars will be fully covered by IDA in addition and do not need to be part of the financial offer

To apply

The interested consultant should send an email asking for tender dossier to tenders@ida-secretariat.org with the subject “Tender application – Disability Data Advocacy consultancy”. The application deadline is 31 July 2023.