

**Independent Evaluation of IDA's Disability Catalyst Programme:**  
Realising the rights of persons with disabilities through the SDGs

**Final Evaluation Report**

**June 2020**

Prepared and submitted by the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies Inc.,  
operating as Eviance



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changements durables.

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## Executive Summary

The human rights paradigm for people with disabilities is inspired by the values of dignity, inclusion, equality and the ethic of solidarity. The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (the “SDGs”) reflect these values, but have yet to be realized by the majority of people with disabilities around the world. In this context, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) has developed a strategy to promote early implementation and monitoring of the Agenda 2030 in order to pay greater attention to and better allocate resources for the inclusion of persons with disabilities - women and marginalized groups in particular - in accordance with the CRPD. The Disability Catalyst Programme was one of the first programs to enact this strategy.

The scope of the Catalyst Programme covers a wide range of activities and initiatives, including:

- The Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative,
- A Flagship Initiative on Inclusive Education,
- A Flagship Initiative on Women and Girls with Disabilities,
- National and regional SDG reports from a CRPD perspective,
- No-One Left Behind (NOLB) Grants,
- Fellowships,
- IDA Global Survey, and
- Other efforts to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the work of the UN.

This report presents the findings and recommendations from an independent evaluation of the Catalyst Programme. The purpose of the evaluation is both retrospective in terms of looking at the extent to which the outcomes and outputs of the Catalyst Programme were fulfilled; and also forward-looking in terms of understanding how these were achieved in order to build on them for future activities. A distinct section on the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative is included as a semi-autonomous component of the evaluation.

The evaluation drew from a realist evaluation approach to provide an analysis of the contexts and mechanisms that affect programme performance and impacts. The evaluation was also meant to engage with the IDA Secretariat and two evaluation advisory groups to develop the methodology and review findings of the evaluation along the way, as well as co-create the key learnings. Our methods included:

- A document review,
- Interviews with 49 key informants,
- Email questionnaires,
- Observations of programme events,

- Feedback and verification meetings with key IDA programme staff and evaluation advisory groups, and
- A secondary analysis of data collected from 143 Bridge Alumni who completed the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Alumni Survey 2020.

## **KEY OUTCOMES**

### *Disability Catalyst Programme*

The activities and initiatives of the Catalyst Programme are working in tandem to contribute to the development of preconditions for accountability on disability inclusion with the UN and at the regional and national levels. These preconditions include:

- Increased space for access and inclusion primarily at the international level;
- Stronger cohesion of the disability movement to speak with a united voice with an emphasis on including diverse and under-represented groups of people with disabilities; and,
- Increased data available to monitor progress on the CRPD and SDGs.

Findings also indicate that there are several ways in which the Catalyst Programme enhances the capacities of people with disabilities and DPOs by developing their networks, technical skills, and advocacy work. Our analyses also indicate that the NOLB grants, fellowships, and the Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative are central features of IDA's support to capacity development.

### *Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative*

The Bridge initiative has engaged a significant number of diverse and marginalized people with disabilities and DPO leaders since its inception in 2015. As of March 2020, a total of 905 people from 103 different countries have been involved in this training initiative. This total includes 388 participants, 334 support people, 126 facilitators and 57 observers. The Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative includes significant participation from women and other underrepresented groups. More than half of the facilitators were women, and about one third were people from underrepresented groups. The Bridge training initiative promotes the principle of inclusion through the provision of interpretation in 14 spoken languages, 21 national sign languages, international and tactile sign, as well as the support of illustrators, captioning and the use of braille.

This evaluation found that Bridge participants gained knowledge as a powerful personal resource for advocacy and self-confidence. Specifically:

- Ninety-two percent (92%) of Bridge Alumni who responded to the 2020 survey reported an increase in knowledge of the CRPD and SDGs and inclusive facilitation; and

- Seventy-three percent (73%) of Alumni reported that the training supported them to engage in strategic advocacy on public policy influencing and/or to monitor the implementation of the CRPD and/or the SDGs.

At an organizational level, many participants indicated that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative has contributed to:

- Building the knowledge and technical capacity of DPOs on the linkages between the CRPD and SDGs;
- Enhancing their organizational capacity to conduct inclusive facilitation; and,
- Positioning their organizational better to engage in state-level policy and development work.

## **KEY MECHANISMS**

### *Disability Catalyst Programme and Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative*

Outcomes and impacts of the Catalyst Programme and Bridge initiative should be considered in relation to individual and organizational starting points, their local contexts, and their positioning in the global disability movement. This evaluation points to some internal and external mechanisms that affect programme impacts and outcomes. For example, the overarching shared goals of the Catalyst Programme provided a stronger foundation for cohesion and collaboration among IDA members. Our analysis also suggests that greater outcomes were achieved when duty bearers and other stakeholders valued a rights-based approach to disability inclusion. Other key mechanisms include:

- Technical skills and support received from the IDA Secretariat including logistical and technical support from the Bridge coordination team to implement trainings;
- Staffing capacity of the IDA Secretariat to provide needed support and coordination of programme activities;
- Flexible funding, and the re-distribution of funds to IDA members, to offer financial support and relative autonomy to guide programme activities; and,
- Varying levels of staffing, fundraising, project management and technical capacities of IDA members and other DPOs.

## **KEY CONTEXTUAL FACTORS**

### *Disability Catalyst Programme and Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative*

Our analysis of contextual factors impacting the performance and outcomes of the Catalyst Programme resonate with the current contextual analysis in the IDA strategic framework 2020-2023. This indicates that IDA is keenly aware of the context in which they are working to advance the rights of persons with disabilities and address those challenges through the components of the Catalyst Programme.

Our evaluation revealed the following key contextual factors surrounding the Catalyst Programme and Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative:

- The global disability movement is largely under resourced and disability activists are often socially, physically, and economically excluded from many spaces of power and influence;
- These limited resources lead to competition for resources which compounds a history of fragmentation and identity politics in the disability movement and presents a challenge for the cohesion needed to speak with a united voice;
- Varying levels of challenges and barriers exist for people with disabilities globally, dependent on their country's laws on disability inclusion and this thereby determines their starting point for advocacy and inclusion;
- The political will of governments and other duty bearers to promote inclusion and accessibility has an impact on the achievement of tangible outcomes for the progressive realization of human rights for people with disabilities; and,
- Donor funding priorities are a key factor in determining where and how money is distributed, what activity costs are covered, and which organizations can access funding.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

This evaluation affirms IDA's efforts to promote the capacity, solidarity, and leadership of diverse people with disabilities through their representative organizations in all regions of the world. These recommendations are intended to provoke dialogue within IDA and with external partners and funders. They are also intended to enhance the interaction and synergies between the various activities and initiatives for future phases of the Catalyst Programme.

### *Recommendations for the Disability Catalyst Programme:*

1. Consolidate collaboratively the learnings from the Catalyst Programme.
2. Expand mentorship and training for more effective monitoring and the development of evidence for advocacy.
3. Amplify the work on intersectionality and make it more visible.
4. Support IDA members to develop capacity to meaningfully engage with regional and national constituencies.
5. Continue the IDA Global Survey on DPO Participation in Development Programmes and Policies.
6. Continue to pursue funding opportunities that support the practice of fiscal hosting.
7. Advocate for reasonable funding requirements by donors to promote equitable access to funds for DPOs with varying levels of capacity.

*Recommendations for Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative:*

1. Continue with in-person trainings.
2. Develop an online knowledge sharing and capacity building platform to complement in-person training.
3. Co-design a knowledge mobilization strategy to support Bridge Alumni to act on what they have learned.
4. Facilitate formal opportunities for Bridge Alumni to mobilize knowledge into action.
5. Strengthen communication with partners and other stakeholders.
6. Continue and enhance the Alumni survey.

The Disability Catalyst Programme highlights IDA's role as a facilitator of collective knowledge, and modelling the values and principles of intersectionality, the CRPD and inclusive international development. The Disability Catalyst Programme and Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative have created new resources and impetus for the disability movement to collectively engage in framing the early years of SDG implementation in compliance with the CRPD. Our findings indicate that the intended outputs and early outcomes of the Disability Catalyst Programme have been met, and greater impacts are yet to be realized.



## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

Table 1: List of acronyms and abbreviations (this table contains 2 columns listing the acronym or abbreviation in one column and the description in the other column)

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| ADF                    | African Disability Forum  |
| AOPD                   | Arab Organisation of Persons with Disabilities  |
| BLF                    | Big Lottery Fund  |
| CBM                    | CBM   |
| CEDAW                  | Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women  |
| CRPD                   | UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities  |
| DFID                   | Department for International Development  |
| DPO                    | Organization of Persons with Disabilities / Disabled Peoples' Organization  |
| DPOD                   | Disabled Peoples Organizations - Denmark  |
| DRF                    | Disability Rights Fund  |
| EDF                    | European Disability Forum   |
| GEM                    | Global Education Monitor  |
| GLAD Network           | Global Action on Disability Network   |
| HI                     | Humanity & Inclusion (formerly Handicap International)  |
| HLPF                   | High Level Political Forum  |
| IDA                    | International Disability Alliance   |
| IDDC                   | International Disability and Development Consortium   |
| IFHOH                  | International Federation of Hard of Hearing People  |
| INGO                   | International non-governmental organization   |
| LFTW                   | Light for the World   |
| NOLB                   | No-One Left Behind  |
| RIADIS                 | Red Latinoamerica de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Personas con Discapacidad y sus Familias (Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons With Disabilities and their Families) |
| SDGs                   | Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development / Sustainable Development Goals   |
| Sida                   | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency  |
| SSI                    | Sight Savers International  |
| TCI / TCI Asia Pacific | Transforming Communities for Inclusion of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities  |
|                        |   |
| ToRs                   | Terms of Reference  |
| ToTAL                  | Training of Trainers, Advocates and Leaders   |

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| ToTIF  | Training of Trainers on Inclusive Facilitation                    |
| UN     | United Nations  |
| UNDIS  | UN Disability Inclusion Strategy                                  |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization  |
| UNPRPD | UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities |
| WBU    | World Blind Union   |

# **Independent Evaluation of IDA's Disability Catalyst Programme**

## **Realising the rights of persons with disabilities through the SDGs**

### **Final Evaluation Report**

#### **Introduction**

The human rights paradigm for people with disabilities is inspired by the values of dignity, inclusion, equality and the ethic of solidarity. The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (the "SDGs") reflect these values but have yet to be realized by the majority of people with disabilities around the world. In this context, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) has developed a strategy to promote early implementation and monitoring of the Agenda 2030 in order to pay greater attention to and better allocate resources for the inclusion of persons with disabilities - women and marginalized groups in particular - in accordance with the CRPD. The Disability Catalyst Programme was one of the first programs to enact this strategy.

IDA's Disability Catalyst Programme is funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and channelled through the Disability Rights Fund (DRF). The programme has been carried out by IDA and its members from January 2017 to March 2020. This programme is also complemented and co-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, under a project entitled "Making the most of the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure the realisation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" (Jan 2018- Dec 2020).

The scope of the Catalyst Programme covers a wide range of activities and initiatives, including:

- The Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative,
- A Flagship Initiative on Inclusive Education,
- A Flagship Initiative on Women and Girls with Disabilities,
- National and regional SDG reports from a CRPD perspective,
- No-One Left Behind (NOLB) Grants,
- Fellowships,
- IDA Global Survey, and
- Other efforts to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the work of the UN.

The Catalyst Programme also corresponded with the launch of new operating modes of IDA as an alliance, and the establishment of a Programme Committee. The IDA Programme Committee aims to enhance member engagement in IDA operations by providing strategic guidance to the implementation of joint IDA, and IDA members' operations.

This report presents the findings, and recommendations, from an independent evaluation of the DFID Catalyst grant from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020. As outlined by IDA in the Terms of Reference (ToRs), the purpose of the evaluation is both retrospective in terms of looking at the extent to which the outcomes and outputs of the DFID Catalyst grant were fulfilled; and also forward-looking in terms of understanding how these were achieved in order to build on them for future activities.

This evaluation was conducted from February to June 2020 by the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies Inc., operating as Eviance. Eviance is a Canadian, community-based, not-for-profit consumer-driven organization (i.e., organization of persons with disabilities) that seeks to help build more inclusive, equitable and accessible societies that are sustainable for all. Our approach draws from the values and principles of intersectionality, reflexivity, and human rights.

This evaluation report provides brief background information on the overall Catalyst Programme with a focus on the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative followed by details about the evaluation framework (purpose, scope, and objectives) and methodology. Next, we present the findings of the evaluation in terms of outcomes, and contextual factors, affecting performance at the programme and organizational levels. These findings are followed by recommendations to improve current interventions and guide future work.

This report has been developed in collaboration with IDA Secretariat staff and key stakeholders from two evaluation advisory groups comprised of IDA and IDDC member representatives, and representatives from donor agencies (e.g., DFID, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland). The methodology, recommendations and key learnings described in this report reflect this participatory and rigorous process.

## **Background Information**

### ***International Disability Alliance (IDA)***

IDA was established nearly 20 years ago as a collective voice of the global disability movement. As articulated in the ToRs, 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 political momentum generated by 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 persons with disabilities are increasingly included in global agendas, IDA has observed a disconnect between global level commitments through the SDGs and their translation into policies at regional and national levels, or in sectoral areas. According to IDA, global gains are further challenged by budget cuts, lack of evidence and data, and a lack of technical capacity of governments and duty bearers. In addition, a lack of recognized CRPD-compliant practices and innovation may significantly reduce the impact and benefits of SDG-related programmes and services for persons with disabilities or continue to exclude them (especially the most marginalized and underrepresented groups).

### ***The Catalyst Programme***

While continuing its work to secure a space for the movement of organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and their allies in global debates and agendas, the Catalyst Programme was created to provide IDA and its members with new resources and the impetus to collectively engage in framing the early years of SDG implementation to ensure compliance with the CRPD. This work also involved securing further space and capacity for cross-disability engagement with a focus on marginalized groups of persons with disabilities. These activities are intended to support the shift in IDA's advocacy towards a stronger focus on accountability on commitments taken in particular at the UN level.

### ***Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative***

A key Catalyst initiative to support the development of capacities of people with disabilities and DPO leaders on the CRPD and SDGs is the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training programme. Bridge CRPD-SDGs is a joint initiative of IDA and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC). The initiative was also supported by DRF at its beginning, drawing from the resources and experiences of the IDA and IDDC networks and their members. Bridge CRPD-SDGs has been co-funded by a wide range of donors and contributors, including DFID, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland, DFAT, the Big Lottery Fund, CBM, HI, DPOD, the Disability Rights Fund, the Ford Foundation, among others.

Bridge CRPD-SDGs is an intensive training programme that aims to support DPO and disability rights advocates to develop an inclusive (all persons with disabilities) and comprehensive (all human rights) CRPD perspective on development, including the 2030 agenda and the SDGs.

The training aims to develop capacities of DPO advocates (i.e., persons with disabilities themselves) from low- and middle-income countries. According to IDA and IDDC, who co-developed Bridge, the training aims to support DPOs and disability rights advocates to develop an inclusive and comprehensive CRPD perspective on development, including SDGs. The training aims to reinforce their advocacy for inclusion and realisation of rights of persons with disabilities.

The Bridge initiative was started in 2015, building on earlier initiatives such as IDA's training of trainers, advocates and leaders (ToTAL), and IDDC's training of trainers on inclusive facilitation (ToTIF). Bridge training has since developed into a comprehensive and multi-stakeholder programme covering:

- Regional and national training cycles (modules 1 + 2);
- A training of trainers cycle (module A + B);
- Collaborative coordination including an IDA-IDDC global-level steering committee, a global coordination team at IDA, and partnership protocols, task team processes, and quality criteria between the two organizations;
- Mentoring, knowledge sharing, and networking; and,
- Systematic attention to enhance and develop participation of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities (as an investment in the disability movement and representation of its diversity).

## Evaluation Overview

Given the breadth of the Catalyst Programme, this evaluation focuses on three cross-cutting elements of the Programme, namely:

1. *Creating preconditions for accountability on disability inclusion with the UN:*  
This part will review progress and learning from IDA's efforts to influence the UN from systemic to more targeted/ sectoral changes;
2. *Development of capacities of people with disabilities and DPO leaders on CRPD and SDGs,* with a focus on the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative.  
This element of the evaluation focuses on how the Bridge initiative contributes to the capacity of the movement to support the achievement of the SDGs in compliance with the CRPD. This component is co-funded with other donors of Bridge to enable a semi-autonomous evaluation of this large initiative; and,
3. *Support the use of such capacities for influence and accountability* such as DPO engagement with the SDGs through the development of evidence for advocacy and the use of international and regional monitoring mechanisms, among others.

This evaluation is designed to assess the extent to which the following IDA outputs as defined in the programme logframe are being reached:

- (1.1) Substantive and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in UN country teamwork in selected countries<sup>1</sup>;
- (2.1.) DPOs increase their capacities to make the most of national and international SDGs and human rights monitoring processes to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities and implementation of the CRPD<sup>2</sup>;
- (3.1) Women with disabilities, persons with psychosocial disabilities, and self-advocates from marginalized groups are involved in regional and global processes related to SDGs monitoring and implementation<sup>3</sup>;and,
- (4.1) Global and regional umbrella organizations for persons with disabilities have developed their capacities for evidence-based advocacy<sup>4</sup>.

## Objectives

As outlined in the ToRs, the objectives for the evaluation are as follows:

- *Identify the learning and drivers for change with regards to the three focus areas identified for the evaluation:* (1) Creating preconditions for accountability on disability inclusion with the UN; (2) Development of capacities of people with disabilities and DPO leaders on CRPD and SDGs;

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<sup>1</sup> DFID output 1.1; MoFA Finland output 2

<sup>2</sup> DFID output 2.1; MoFA Finland output 1

<sup>3</sup> DFID output 3.1; MoFA Finland output 3

<sup>4</sup> DFID output 4.1; MoFA Finland output 3

and, (3) Support the use of such capacities for influence and accountability across sectors at the local, national, regional and international levels to promote implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in accordance with the CRPD);

- *Provide objective feedback on the progress made towards the achievement of output- and outcome-level results in the Programme logical framework;*
- *Provide objective feedback on the progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative using OECD criteria for relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability<sup>5</sup>;*
- *Identify internal and external factors affecting performance at both the programmatic and organizational levels, including strengths and points for vigilance; and,*
- *Provide a clear set of recommendations to improve current interventions and guide future ones, especially as IDA develops (and transitions into) its next strategic framework.*

### ***Evaluation questions***

Evaluation questions are the high-level questions that an evaluation is designed to answer – not specific questions that are asked in an interview or questionnaire. These questions articulate the main issues that will be explored throughout the evaluation. Having an agreed upon set of evaluation questions makes it easier to decide what data to collect, how to analyze it and how to report it. Thus, in accordance with feedback from the evaluation advisory groups, this evaluation is guided by the following questions:

1. How has the Catalyst Programme contributed to the development of preconditions<sup>6</sup> for accountability on disability inclusion with the UN and at the national levels?
2. To what extent has the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative engaged diverse and marginalized people with disabilities and DPO leaders?
3. How has the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative increased capacities of people with disabilities and DPO leaders for influence and accountability across sectors at the national, regional and international levels?
4. What are the key internal and external factors affecting performance (both positively and negatively) and impacts of the Catalyst and Bridge programmes?

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/daccriteriaforevaluatingdevelopmentassistance.htm>

<sup>6</sup> Preconditions may include: increased political will of duty bearers; increased technical capacity of duty bearers; increased space secured for civil society; stronger capacity of DPOs to hold duty bearers accountable; stronger cohesion of the movement to speak with one voice; increased data available to monitor progress; etc.



## Methodology

To respond to these questions and achieve the objectives of this evaluation, we draw from a realist evaluation approach (Pawson & Tilley, 1997). This approach goes beyond simply asking what is working well and what is not working well and aims to provide a contextual analysis of the contexts and mechanisms that affect performance and impacts. Thus, a realist evaluation approach sets out to identify the context, mechanisms (i.e., drivers), and outcomes of a programme or intervention.

A realist evaluation approach is congruent with a focus on intersectionality and foregrounding the needs of diverse marginalized groups by exploring who benefits and who does not benefit from various interventions. We define intersectionality in accordance with previous literature (e.g., Buettgen, Hardie, Wicklund, Jean-François, & Alimi, 2018 ; Crenshaw, 1989; Hankivsky, 2014) as an understanding of human beings as shaped by the interaction of different social categories (e.g., gender, 'race'/ethnicity, Indigeneity, class/caste, sexuality, geography, age, disability/ability, migration status, religion, etc.). These interactions occur within a context of systems and structures of power (e.g., laws, policies, state governments and other institutions). Through such processes, interdependent forms of privilege and oppression - shaped by colonialism, imperialism, racism, homophobia, ableism and patriarchy - are created. This means that inequities are not the result of single distinct factors but are the outcome of intersections of different social locations, power relations and experiences. This approach also fits well with the human rights model of disability by looking at the person-in-environment with considerations of power and access, as well as best evidence.

## Methods

Our approach to this evaluation involved triangulating multiple qualitative and quantitative data sources to meet evaluation objectives and goals. Our methods were developed based on input from key IDA Secretariat programme staff and two evaluation advisory groups. Qualitative methods have been used primarily to understand the mechanisms and contexts affecting performance and impacts of the Catalyst and Bridge CRPD-SDGs programmes. We have also drawn from existing data sources via a document review using a collaborative data gathering and collection process with IDA Secretariat programme team members.

Specifically, our methods have included:

- **Document review and analysis** of relevant IDA activity reports, IDA website, global survey report, previous evaluations (e.g., Sida evaluation), country reports, as well as various UN documents and DPO submissions, previous grant applications (e.g., BLF CBM Application), etc.

- **Key informant interviews.** Forty-nine individual interviews were conducted with key informants including diverse Bridge participants, key IDA programme staff and board members, Bridge steering committee members, IDA members and other relevant stakeholders. The interviews were conducted virtually (e.g., by Zoom or WhatsApp), by phone and in person.
- **Email questionnaire** – A questionnaire was sent via email to those key informants who were unable or did not wish to participate in virtual or in-person interviews.
- **Observations** – Observations and informal meetings took place at programme events in Geneva, Switzerland in March 2020.
- **Feedback and verification meetings** with key IDA programme staff and evaluation advisory groups.
- **Bridge CRPD-SDGs Alumni Survey 2020** – A secondary analysis of data collected from 143 Bridge Alumni who completed the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Alumni Survey in 2020. Quantitative and qualitative analyses of key variables related to the evaluation questions were undertaken.

## Participants

Key informant interview participants were selected using a criterion based purposive sampling strategy. This means that potential participants were selected purposely because they had previous or current knowledge and experiences with the Catalyst Programme and/or Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative. Key informants included Bridge alumni, IDA and IDDC member organization representatives, IDA Secretariat staff, consultants, support persons, IDA and Bridge fellows. A list of potential participants was proposed by IDA (and in the case of Bridge by IDA and IDDC) and shared with the Eviance evaluation team.

Potential participants were contacted via email to request their participation in a confidential individual interview. Participants who replied with interest received an informed consent form and a copy of the interview questions to review in advance of the interview. The consent form and interview guides were translated into French, Spanish and Plain language for accessibility in the participant recruitment and data collection process. Potential 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. Accommodations, such as sign language interpretation, were arranged as requested.

This report includes data collected from 49 key informants from 29 different countries. Interview participants were located across five global regions including Africa (n=15), Europe (n=12), Americas (n=8), Asia-Pacific (n=5), Latin America (n=5), and Middle East and North Africa (n=4). Participants ranged in age from 27

to 64 years old with an average of 46. More than half of participants identified as female (n=31) and 18 participants identified as male. Three participants identified as being a member of an Indigenous group. One participant identified as a family member of a person with a disability

Many participants (n=33) identified as having a disability including:

- Blind or low vision (n=11).
- Physical disabilities (n=8),
- Psychosocial disabilities (n=6),
- Intellectual or learning disability (n=2),
- Deaf (n=2),
- Deafblind (n=2), and,
- Other (n=2).

Information shared by participants has been kept confidential by the research team at Eviance. Any identifying information about participants has been removed from this report to protect confidentiality and anonymity.

## **Analysis**

Interview notes, transcripts and other documents were analysed using thematic content analysis to identify, analyse and report patterns (themes) in the data. This means that we examined the data to identify common themes – topics, ideas, and patterns of meaning that came up repeatedly. Qualitative data was explored to identify the contexts and mechanisms that have influenced outcomes and outputs of the Catalyst Programme and Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative.

## **Limitations**

The scope of this evaluation, covering all components of the Catalyst Programme and Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative and including key informants from all regions of the world, combined with the timeframe set within the ToRs created limitations on the number of days that could be used for each phase of the evaluation. However, a total of 71 potential participants were contacted at least three times between March and June 2020 to invite them to participate in an interview. Forty-nine individuals took part in interviews. Six potential participants declined to be interviewed due to illness, limited availability, and/or perceived conflicts of interest. We did not receive responses from 16 individuals. As of June 4, 2020, our data collection reached a point of saturation, which means no new information or themes were observed in the data we were collecting through interviews. This signaled that data collection may cease as we were reasonably assured that further data collection would yield similar results and serve to confirm emerging themes and conclusions.

In addition, we conducted a rigorous secondary data analysis of the 2020 Bridge Alumni survey. This analysis provided an additional source of data and information about the Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative, representing the perspectives of 143 alumni. This analysis was not originally part of the evaluation plan but has offered a rich source of information.

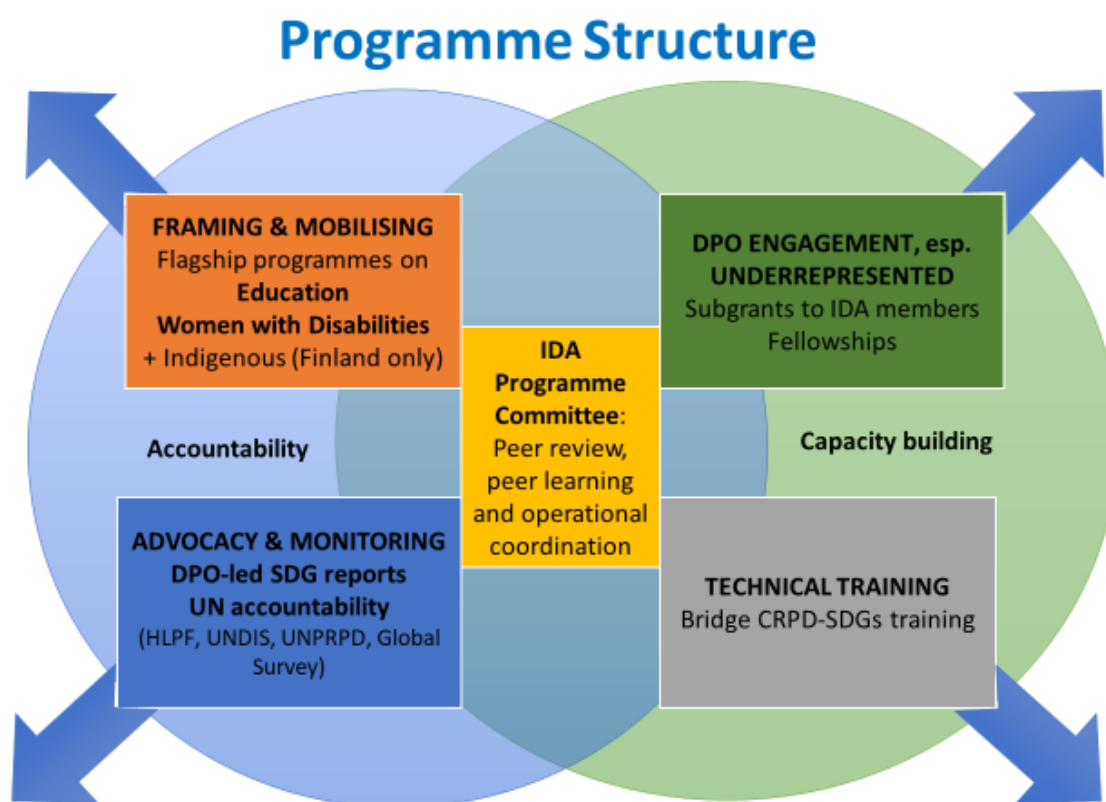
Moreover, due the Covid-19 crisis, face-to-face interviews initially scheduled in Kenya during the “Kenya Disability Festival” in late March and early April 2020 were cancelled. The Festival consisted of IDA and IDA members-led events. The interviews were planned to take place at the same time to foster synergies and exchanges between different groups and mutualise operational resources. As a result, most key informant interviews were conducted by phone, email questionnaire or online using Zoom or WhatsApp. The rigour and quality of the data collection process was not affected. Eviance worked with IDA to ensure that the key stakeholders that were to be interviewed in Kenya were sought out for interviews.

## Findings

The following sections present the evaluation findings to highlight key outcomes of the Catalyst Programme. Programme outcomes and outputs are described in accordance with the evaluation questions. These findings show how the programme has created preconditions for accountability on disability inclusion and increased the capacities of people with disabilities and DPO leaders at the national, regional and international levels. Our findings also point to internal and external factors (i.e., mechanisms and context) affecting performance and impacts of the Catalyst Programme. A distinct section on the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative is included here as a semi-autonomous component of the evaluation.

### Disability Catalyst Programme

Since 2016, IDA has grown significantly from an informal caucus to a formal, global alliance. IDA's budget has also tripled since 2014. This growth has coincided with the development and implementation of the Disability Catalyst Programme which is structured to increase accountability of duty bearers and capacity building to maximize the momentum of the SDGs for further implementation of the CRPD. The programme structure is illustrated by IDA in the image below:



3

This image presents the key objectives of the Catalyst Programme. These objectives include:

- Framing the implementation of the SDGs to be inclusive of all groups of persons with disabilities in line with the CRPD via the flagship programmes on inclusive education, women, and Indigenous people with disabilities;
- Supporting regional SDGs monitoring and taking into consideration the broader SDGs framework and relevant regional agendas (SDG reports from a CRPD perspective);
- Ensuring engagement of DPOs, especially with underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities including women and girls and marginalised groups with dedicated subgrants and capacity development including training and fellowships; and,
- Training via the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative.

At the centre of the programme is the IDA programme committee (IPC) comprised of IDA members that engage in peer review, peer learning and operational coordination.

This image also depicts the interconnectedness of the various components of the Catalyst Programme. The components are designed to provide a cumulative impact on the advancement of human rights of persons with disabilities. Our findings indicate that the Catalyst Programme is working to achieve these objectives. As one key informant told us,

*"The Catalyst Programme has given IDA a chance to take a deep dive into key issues... [The programme] has been value added for IDA and individual member organizations."*

The development of the Catalyst Programme was described by key informants as "a success story in a growth crisis" in that the Catalyst Programme reflects the growth of the IDA Secretariat despite the resource challenges facing the non-profit and disability sector. In this way, key informants told us that IDA's experience with the Catalyst Programme was integral to the development of IDA's strategic framework 2020-2023. A timeline in Appendix A depicts the critical moments and key milestones of the Catalyst Programme from January 2017 to March 2020.

Over the past three years, IDA members have participated in numerous international forums. This engagement reflects a shift in representation at the UN from the IDA Secretariat to IDA member organizations. The Catalyst Programme has supported extensive advocacy work across UN agencies, programmes, and other entities at the regional and national levels within and beyond the disability sector.

## Outcomes

The Catalyst Programme has engaged diverse people with disabilities and their allies to work collaboratively towards the development of preconditions for accountability on disability inclusion by increasing the capacities of people with disabilities and DPO leaders. This section will first describe the key outcomes discovered during our evaluation, followed by an analysis of the internal and external factors that made the programme successful and/or presented challenges.

### *Creating preconditions for accountability on disability inclusion*

IDA efforts, including through the Catalyst Programme, have contributed to several preconditions for accountability on disability inclusion with the UN and at the regional and national levels. Our findings highlight the development of three preconditions which include: (1) increased space for access and inclusion; (2) stronger cohesion of the disability movement to speak with a united voice; and, (3) increased data available to monitor progress on the SDGs in line with the CRPD.

#### ***1) Increased space for access and inclusion***

Based on our document review and key informant interviews, components of the Catalyst Programme are working in tandem to support disability advocates and activists to claim and create space for access and inclusion primarily at the UN level. As one key informant said, the Catalyst Programme contributes to IDA's work to create and "claim space for the disability movement, by the disability movement." These spaces have emerged out of common concerns that have mobilized IDA members and other diverse people with disabilities. The findings of this evaluation resonate with the following statement made in a previous evaluation of IDA, indicating that overall: "IDA has achieved substantial advocacy gains in the UN system...which is increasingly including disability aspects in their work and normative frameworks" (Nilsson, Nichols, Norén, & McClain-Nhlapo, 2019, p. v).

For example, IDA has supported the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in a number of ways including:

- ✓ The election of Ana Pelaez as the first woman with a disability as a member of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee. Ana is also the vice-president of the European Disability Forum (an IDA member organization); and,
- ✓ Contributions to the Beijing +25 African consultation (including a protest on the lack of accessibility of the room as pictured here), feeding into the 64<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women.



*Photograph of the delegation of African women with disabilities protesting at the Beijing +25 African consultation (October 2019)*

More recently in February 2020, the WBU leveraged their NOLB grant to coordinate the participation of IDA members' representatives and Bridge CRPD-SDGs Alumni at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi. Bridge alumni (including women, people with psychosocial disabilities, blind, Deaf, etc.) actively participated in the Forum to advocate for disability rights and inclusive development at this event. The space was coordinated with financial and technical support from CBM, IDA and its members in particular ADF, RIADIS, II and WNUSP as well as the supported organization of TCI Asia-Pacific. This collaboration demonstrates a cohesive effort among members of the disability movement to speak with a united voice at an international forum. Due in part to this event, the WBU is now the co-chair of the General Assembly of Partners - Partner Constituency Group of persons with disabilities (GAP-PCG), which is the stakeholder mechanism of the New Urban Agenda and recognized by UN-Habitat.

To sustain space for access and inclusion at the UN, our document review found evidence of IDA's role in providing consultation on UN strategic planning documents, such as the UN-wide Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS). IDA was one of the few civil society organizations involved in the consultation process of the strategy. Specifically, the UNDIS notes:

*From the onset, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations have played an active role, including through participation in briefings and meetings, and contributing to the drafting process [of the UNDIS]. International Disability Alliance (IDA), an umbrella organization of organizations of persons with disabilities, has been an active participant.*

(United Nations, 2019 p. 28)

The strategy explicitly notes its objectives as “ensuring that the UN system is fit for purpose in relation to disability inclusion. It provides a foundation for sustainable and transformative change on disability inclusion through all pillars of the UN's work” (Ibid, p. 4). This inclusion is defined in accordance with the values and principles of IDA and the Catalyst Programme to meaningfully include diverse people with disabilities across the work of the UN<sup>7</sup>. The UNDIS is accompanied by an accountability framework including an indicator (#5) for “consultation with persons with disabilities” (Ibid, p. 13).

5. Consultation with persons with disabilities

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<sup>7</sup> “The term ‘disability inclusion’ refers to meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in all their diversity, promotion and mainstreaming of their rights across the work of the Organization, development of disability-specific programmes, and consideration of disability-related perspectives in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This requires the development and implementation of a consistent and systematic approach to disability inclusion in all areas of operations and programming, both internally and externally.” (United Nations, 2019, p. 3)



In addition to this work, the Women and Girls with Disabilities Flagship Initiative increased space for access and inclusion at global and regional levels. A key outcome of this initiative is a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IDA and UN Women. This MoU was signed in 2018 to support work towards mainstreaming issues of women and girls with disabilities globally. IDA contributed to the development of the UN Women strategy for the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities (adopted on 3 December 2018). This strategy document includes an explicit commitment to actively engage in inter-agency and multi-stakeholder mechanisms and processes. These mechanisms include the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network (of which IDA is the permanent co-chair); the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) which works closely with IDA; and the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (of which IDA is an official observer).

At a regional level, members of the Women and Girls with Disabilities Flagship began collaborating with the Arab Regional office of UN Women. This collaboration resulted in identifying opportunities to leverage UN Women's corporate strategy on disability to encourage country programmes of UN Women to be more responsive towards issues of women and girls with disabilities. Specifically, in April 2019, UN Women Offices of Arab States partnered with IDA and its regional member, the Arab Organisation of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD), to pilot the first UN Women Staff Disability and Gender Inclusivity Training. UN Women staff participated from a variety of sectors including human resources, operations and security, and policy and programming. In addition, representatives came from the regional office based in Cairo as well as the country offices of Palestine, Jordan, Morocco, Egypt, and Lebanon. This training focused on examining the multi-dimensional nature of gender inclusivity and the principle of "Leave No One Behind". Women leaders with disabilities from grassroots communities shared how inclusivity and intersectionality are experienced by women and girls with disabilities.

At an organizational level, a few key informants said that participating in this flagship initiative increased interest and knowledge about women's issues within their DPO. These informants said they are engaged in ongoing advocacy to "push issues for women with disabilities" within and beyond their organization. One key informant reflected on her participation in the Women and Girls with Disabilities Flagship by acknowledging:

*"There is still lots to be done, but things are better now than before. There has been training, capacity building and other activities for women with disabilities to look at themselves as women, not simply as women with disabilities".*

These statements reflect the systemic marginalization of issues related to women with disabilities within the disability and women's movement.

These outcomes of the Catalyst Programme demonstrate some key elements of an intersectional approach to inclusion. These examples appear to be promoting an understanding of people with disabilities as shaped by the interaction of different social categories (such as gender, geography, disability type, etc.) and a focus on systems and structures of power and influence (such as UN committees and commissions). Next, we outline a few ways in which the Catalyst Programme has contributed to stronger cohesion of the disability movement to speak with a united voice.

## ***2) Stronger cohesion of the movement to speak with a united voice***

The various components of the Catalyst Programme are contributing to stronger cohesion in the disability movement. As one informant said:

*"IDA is creating a climate that allows organizations of people with different disabilities to articulate what it means to be included."*

Overall evaluation findings indicate that IDA's organizational mission and dedication "to advance the human rights of persons with disabilities as a united voice of organizations of persons with disabilities" promotes stronger cohesion of the disability movement. Many key informants applauded the Secretariat's commitment to this mission through its actions to meaningfully engage underrepresented groups and convene diverse people with disabilities, DPOs and other stakeholders such as IDDC member organization representatives.

An example of this increased cohesion is reflected in the activities and early outcomes of the IDA Programme Committee (IPC). The IPC is part of the core of the Catalyst Programme. The IPC meets regularly to share information and knowledge, engage in peer review, peer learning, peer support and operational coordination. Furthermore, according to several key informants, the IPC allowed for a unique opportunity to bring representatives of IDA and IDDC member organizations together for mutual learning and collaboration at an operational level.

Upon reflection of their experiences with the IPC, several key informants said that they "would like to highlight the need to continue the coordination role of the IDA Secretariat." Several key informants have described early outcomes of the IPC for various IDA members. These early outcomes were described primarily as increased collaboration and mutual learning between members. These opportunities have developed as members have increased awareness about the needs, interests and operations of other IDA members. For example, since the creation of the IPC, Inclusion International (II) and DSi have begun working together to co-create

international guidelines for inclusive participation of people with intellectual disabilities. These organizations are also working together to support the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative. Other IDA members have described how they are working to support the realization of inclusive education within their membership based on the work of the Inclusive Education Flagship and in alignment with the IDA consensus paper on how to achieve SDG 4 in compliance with CRPD Article 24.

The Inclusive Education Flagship initiative was a collaborative effort involving representatives from four IDA members (IFHOH, II, WBU and WFD) with coordination support from the IDA Secretariat. This initiative produced a consensus paper on how to achieve SDG 4 in compliance with CRPD Article 24 on Education. The consensus paper was produced after extensive exchanges between IDA members on the task team, dialogue with members of IDDC, and primary research in the Nepal context, including an exchange with representatives of Nepalese DPOs.

Several key informants described this flagship as an example of effective “compromised consensus” on the implementation of inclusive education. They described how representatives worked together to achieve a settlement of differences on how to realize inclusive education. Informants said that the diplomatic inclusive facilitation by IDA Secretariat staff contributed to their results. Consensus was reached by mutual concessions to focus on presenting a united position and vision.

A few key informants have suggested that the vision for implementation of SDG 4 in line with the CRPD increases capacity of DPOs to hold duty bearers accountable by providing clear guidelines on how to implement inclusive education. For example, this united position has been disseminated in various ways, including through several reports, videos, webinars and presentations at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). Specifically, a summary version of the consensus paper was shared with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) team in charge of producing the 2020 Global Education Monitor (GEM) Report. The UNESCO website notes that the 2020 GEM Report will be launched in late June 2020 and will:

*...address inclusion in education, drawing attention to all those excluded from education, because of background or ability. The Report is motivated by...the call to ensure an inclusive and equitable quality education in the formulation of SDG 4, the global goal for education. It reminds us that, no matter what argument may be built to the contrary, we have a moral imperative to ensure every child has a right to an appropriate education of high quality. (UNESCO, 2020))*

This stated purpose of the GEM report aligns well with the IDA's messages in their summary paper which notes:

*Building a truly inclusive education system is the only way to respond simultaneously to the learning and schooling crises and to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all children and learners, wherever and whoever they are. In an inclusive education system, all learners with and without disabilities, are learning together in classes in their local community schools. They all receive the support they need, from preschool to tertiary and vocational education, in inclusive and accessible schools.*

(International Disability Alliance, 2019 p. 1)

At a national level, one key informant described how their national education policies were improved to align with the principles of the CRPD. According to this informant, "[My country] now has one of the strongest legal frameworks in this area in [my region]." This informant said that resources invested by the State in inclusive education increased substantially over the past two years. This included an increase in accommodation provision and the number of students enrolled in mainstream public schools. Thus, this key informant suggested that,

*"The [inclusive education] project has had a significant impact in terms of the evolution of inclusive education approaches and concepts in the country by showing that it is the system that must change and not the children."*

Thus, our analyses suggest that the IPC and the Inclusive Education Flagship might provide a framework for imitable practice. These initiatives have begun to strengthen the cohesion of the movement to speak with a united voice, in an effort, to hold duty bearers to account. Some key informants suggested that the increased data available through the Global Survey, SDG reports and the initial global report by the WFDB have helped to build cohesion and collaboratively monitor progress on the CRPD and SDGs.

### ***3) Increased data available to monitor progress on the CRPD and SDGs***

The Catalyst Programme has increased the availability of data to monitor progress on the CRPD and SDGs through the development of the IDA Global Survey on DPO participation in development programmes and policies, and through support for members to produce other reports. This data has the potential to be used for evidence-based advocacy for the development of preconditions for accountability on disability inclusion at the international, regional and national level.

At a global level, the initial **Global Report on the Situation and Rights of Persons with Deafblindness** (World Federation of the Deafblind, 2018) was described by some key informants as an evidence-based awareness raising tool that can be used to monitor the SDGs and CRPD. One key informant commented that the technical assistance facilitated by IDA provided a rigorous participatory process in the research. This informant said:

*"The research team took advantage of the organization of the WFDB conference in 2018 to present the preliminary findings of the study and to discuss them with deafblind people. Thematic working groups (health, employment, diversity...) were organized to discuss findings and collect feedback. Testimonials from deafblind people were collected to illustrate the reality of the living conditions of deafblind persons and the challenges they face in their daily lives."*

This informant further commented that the global report is intended to inform the national advocacy work of members of the WFDB but has yet to be effectively mobilized. Similarly, several key informants suggested that it will take time to mobilize the findings from these key reports which were recently disseminated. Specifically, it will take time for IDA members to review the findings and discuss how to utilize this data for action in collaboration with the expressed needs and interests of their constituents or other organizations. Regarding the **IDA Global Survey on DPO participation in development programmes and policies**, one key informant commented that the final report can be used by IDA members to push for increased participation of DPOs at all stages of development of policies and programmes. This informant said:

*"It is a relevant idea to measure the level of participation of DPO in dialogue mechanisms and policy-making, not only in the Global South but also in Europe where the situation is contrasted between Western and Eastern Europe where DPOs do not have voice in these processes."*

Several key informants described the IDA Global Survey as "*one of the greatest tools*" for gathering evidence on the extent of participation and inclusion of people with disability in development programmes and policies. Specifically, the IDA Global Survey offers a unique baseline to monitor changes on DPO participation in development programmes and policies. Several key informants reiterated IDA's findings that the first Global Survey was an effective pilot project in this regard.

Several key informants also said the tangible impacts of the survey are yet to be realized as the preliminary results were just produced in mid 2019. Based on the results produced so far, these informants said the survey has provided evidence that can be used to support strategic decision making within DPOs and at IDA.

Informants also suggested that the survey can be used to identify “where we should be focusing [our efforts]” to promote meaningful inclusion of people with disabilities in development programmes and policies.

Several key informants suggested that there is value in developing and enhancing the IDA Global Survey to build capacity for ongoing data collection and dissemination. Lessons learned through the development and implementation of the survey were clearly documented in the initial report and echoed by some key informants (International Disability Alliance, 2019). According to the survey results report, the development and implementation of the survey itself was an exercise in “learning related to the technical feasibility of a wide-scale, multilingual and accessible online survey reaching out to a wide audience in the disability rights movement” (p. 34). Some key informants suggested that the data collection process and analysis of the next survey could be enhanced based on lessons learned and identified by IDA from the first survey. Key informants also suggested that the next survey could be developed to better capture the diversity and scope of work of DPOs involved in the movement. One key informant suggested that the survey could be used as a tool for IDA to capture and map the different types of organizations involved in the movement.

Capacity to monitor progress on the CRPD and SDGs through increased available data has also been enhanced by the creation of the **regional and national SDG reports**. These reports explicitly aim to generate evidence for regional and country-level SDG monitoring. According to key informants, the SDG reports offer a DPO-led analysis of the experiences of people with disabilities in target countries. The reporting process also offers a learning opportunity for IDA members to make visible their needs and demands in relation to the SDGs in line with the CRPD. At a regional level, one key informant said:

*“Our regional SDG report generated a lot of new information on the situation of people with disabilities in the region that did not exist before (or that was not consolidated).”*

At a national level, another key informant said:

*“Our report [filled] a gap on the knowledge about disability in [my country] and identified key priorities and recommendations for change. It gave an insight on the situation and priorities of the disability sector in the country.”*

Several informants commented that the self-representative nature of the SDG reporting process made it possible to show the diversity of realities encountered by persons with disabilities and provided an analysis from their own perspective and in their own words. In some cases, the reports were used for awareness raising at the UN level. As one informant commented,

*"On top of the 25 government officials, a delegation of 7 persons with disabilities went to the UN to present the report, with all type of disabilities [present], which gave a lot of visibility to the national disability movement [there]."*

Another key informant indicated that the reporting process addressed the intersectionality and complexity of issues related to disability. This informant indicated:

*"The report was holistic and representative as it included inputs from DPOs working in different regions and with different disability groups. It also included inputs from mainstream organisations such as women or youth organizations."*

A few key informants also indicated that the SDG reporting process increased the credibility of DPOs' "user's expertise." As one informant described:

*"The publication of this report has strengthened the legitimacy of the disability movement. DPOs have demonstrated their technical capacity to carry out a particularly complex data collection and analysis process. The dissemination of the report at national, regional and international levels made it clear to public authorities that they were now 'watched.' They are now paying more attention to our needs and demands."*

Another informant told us:

*"It was the first time in [my country] that a group of people with disabilities sent a report to the UN to monitor the situation in the country: the authorities and the Parliament were shocked! It proved our increased technical capacity to collect evidence-based data and develop a comprehensive report."*

Moreover, participatory processes made it possible to actively involve DPOs together with public authorities in collecting data and validating the report. As one informant said:

*"In [my country], the most positive aspect of the process was the inclusive and participatory dimension of the process. Despite the short time available, public authorities were closely involved in key stages of the preparation and validation of the report. One representative from each line ministry participated in the working groups that were set up. This report is the result of real teamwork, which contributed to good ownership over its results."*

According to key informants, the engagement of duty bearers through participatory processes contributed to changes in national policies or programmes. One informant described an increase in their state funded disability monthly allowance. Another informant described the development and approval of a National Inclusive Education policy which was awaiting presentation to parliament. Unfortunately, this presentation has been delayed because of COVID 19 and social unrest in the country.

Our findings suggest that the SDG reports are a potential tool for evidence-based advocacy. Several key informants suggested that the SDG reports have potential advocacy power but vary in their methodological rigour and analysis which can affect the perceived credibility of the report among duty bearers. The impacts of the reports are largely yet to be realized as some reports are still in progress or recently completed. This programme component was designed as a learning opportunity for IDA members to lead on the reporting process. As a result, there is a range of methodologies and foci of the SDG reports. To build capacity and support the development of the reports, IDA hosted a global workshop on SDGs report writing. Several key informants indicated they appreciated this learning opportunity and expressed positive feedback about the workshop.

Thus, our initial analysis suggests that people with disabilities and their representative organisations and other members of the disability movement are ready, willing and interested in mobilizing knowledge for change. As reports have just been published, key informants remarked that it will take time to "digest and reflect" on the findings and results. This means that DPOs and other organizations in the movement are considering how they want to use the information produced through the Catalyst Programme to further their advocacy and other actions. This also means building capacity for influence and accountability across sectors and at multiple levels.



### ***Increasing capacities of people with disabilities and DPOs***

Findings from this evaluation suggest that there are several ways in which the Catalyst Programme is increasing and enhancing the capacities of people with disabilities and DPOs. Our analyses indicate that the NOLB grants, fellowships, and the Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative are central features of IDA's support to capacity development.

Overall, the NOLB grants have supported IDA members to promote the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs in compliance with the CRPD. These \$50,000 USD grants were meant to serve as seed money for members to secure additional funding and build the capacity of their constituents to contribute to the cross-disability movement. The NOLB grants were also used for various purposes such as the development of individual skills and knowledge in target countries, enhancing advocacy among underrepresented groups, facilitating international mobilization through the production of data and participation in global forums.

The NOLB grants were reviewed by the IPC as an opportunity to learn about various IDA member operations through a peer review grant application process. In supporting this overarching goal, one key informant described the NOLB grant as a *"fantastic thing for IDA to offer to members."* At an organizational level, this informant said that the grant allowed their organization to demonstrate to their constituents that they were *"doing something real."* This informant told us that they used their NOLB grant funding for specific capacity development initiatives such as hiring local staff to gather and analyze data in order to develop evidence-based advocacy plans.

The financial support from IDA also supported some fellows to develop transferable skills related to disability and data linked to the SDGs and CRPD as well as project management, research skills, and network building. Regarding network building, one key informant described how the NOLB grant and fellowship facilitated the inclusion of approximately 50 DPO representatives (including interpreters and personal assistants) from the Global South to participate in the fifth WFDB General Assembly and 11th Helen Keller World Conference in June 2018.

Similarly, a small number of key informants suggested that the fellowship can be an instrument to stimulate the emergence of new disability leaders. Fellows can get valuable exposure and experience while learning under the guidance and mentorship of other experienced leaders. They can gain new insights and perspectives while also getting the opportunity to meet other experts in the disability sector.

These informants stressed the need to ensure the fellowship allows participants to gain real world experience and new professional skills through close mentorship and guidance within the host organization. Effective mentorship can support fellows to enhance their skills in new environments and settings to maximize their impact. As one informant said:

*"The opportunity of learning from my mentor, the CEO of the organization, was also a big motivation as [they are] a renowned leader in the disability community."*

On the other hand, another key informant described the challenges of a lack of mentorship and guidance such that:

*"I had very little autonomy in my work and very little support from my mentor. In the end, this fellowship did not allow me to develop new capacities and skills."*

As such, these key informants highlighted the need for individual action plans from DPO hiring fellows with clear activities, deliverables, milestones, and performance indicators to support IDA to conduct effective oversight and ensure all fellows are supported within their host organizations.

The Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative is a leading programme in the capacity development of individuals and DPO leaders. Analysis of key informant interviews, documents and the Bridge Alumni Survey 2020 indicate that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative is increasing the knowledge and technical capacities of participants and their representative organisations as well as building connections between diverse people with disabilities.

Our analysis indicates that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative is promoting knowledge capacity of the CRPD and SDGs, and inclusive facilitation. Bridge participants have reported an increase in their knowledge of the experiences of people with different disabilities from different countries and contexts. This knowledge can be a powerful resource that can be used to empower others for meaningful and sustainable change. This initiative will be discussed below in a separate section of the report as a semi-autonomous component of this evaluation.

Next, we describe the key internal and external factors affecting the performance and outcomes of the Catalyst Programme.

## Internal and external factors affecting performance

Our analyses point to a few key internal and external factors that appear to affect programme impacts and outcomes. In line with our realist evaluation approach, these factors are described in terms of mechanisms and context. Mechanisms are a combination of resources (e.g., funding, skills, information, support) and reasoning (e.g., values, beliefs, attitudes). Context refers to the environment in which a programme operates (e.g., socio-economic and political environment, organizational context, culture) which also makes a difference to the results. These internal and external factors are discussed below.

### *Mechanisms*

Most key informants commented that the **technical skills and support received from the IDA Secretariat** was a key mechanism affecting outcomes and impacts. These skills and support were described as:

- Logistical support to convene meetings of IDA members and/or constituents,
- Support for facilitating inclusive decision-making processes,
- Subject matter and research expertise,
- Support for gathering best evidence for decision making for advocacy,
- Identification of avenues for knowledge dissemination at the UN level, and
- Identification of opportunities for access and inclusion at the global level.

These skills were credited to the Secretariat overall, and particular staff members involved in various components of the Catalyst Programme. Some key informants praised the diplomacy and inclusive facilitation skills of Secretariat staff to convene diverse people with disabilities and DPOs around mutual interests and goals. In this respect, a few key informants believed that the departure of a dedicated staff person who had supported the Women and Girls with Disabilities Flagship limited the potential impacts and outcomes of this initiative.

Similarly, other key informants indicated that the **staffing capacity of the Secretariat** can be a challenge when it comes to meeting the needs and interests of members and participants in the programme. These challenges were also noted in the previous Sida evaluation which suggested that the Secretariat staffing is not commensurate with the ambitions of IDA and the growing demands on its participation. This indicates a growing need and interest in the support of IDA to develop the capacities and cohesion of the movement. The need for increased capacity is recognized by the IDA Secretariat in their 2020-2023 strategic framework.

Relatedly, another key resource is **flexible funding and the re-distribution of DFID funds to IDA members**. Several key informants expressed strong appreciation for the flexible funding model supported by DFID for the Catalyst Programme, particularly in terms of the positive outcomes of the NOLB grants. These grants supported IDA members to develop projects that reflected the interests of their constituents. Members also had some increased financial capacity to partner with each other with relative autonomy. Specifically, IDA members used the funding to access international forums, conferences, and other opportunities for influence and advocacy. Funding was also used as seed money for further fund raising and to increase knowledge and technical capacity of member organizations. Further fund raising was supported by the technical skills and support of the IDA Secretariat, or the staffing capacity of the member organization. This means that organizations with few or no staff were limited in their capacity to fundraise and required the support of the IDA Secretariat to access funds to hire staff and carry out NOLB funded projects.

Overall, the **capacities of IDA members and other DPOs** were described as key factors affecting performance and outcomes. These capacities impacted the relative starting point of each organization when the Catalyst Programme began. IDA members operate with varying levels of fundraising, project management, and technical capacity. For example, some IDA member representatives described their capacity to leverage funds from the NOLB grants to further fundraise and build their networks. These organizations employed staff that could coordinate communication, partnership development, grant writing and meet the reporting requirements of donors. Other members told us that they struggled with limited staffing capacity to design and manage a project, as well as fundraise. In this way, the technical skills and support received from the IDA Secretariat was a key mechanism in their ability to access funding and achieve project outcomes.

At a conceptual level, the **overarching shared goal of the Catalyst Programme provides a foundation for stronger cohesion and collaboration among IDA members**. Our findings indicate that all IDA members agree on framing the implementation of the SDGs to be inclusive of all groups of persons with disabilities in line with the CRPD. The Catalyst Programme flagships have created opportunities for members to work toward a consensus on *how* to maximize the momentum of the SDGs for further implementation of the CRPD. For example, some key informants reflected that the Inclusive Education Flagship was successful, in part, because *"All members supported the concept of inclusive education"*. These shared values were an important mechanism for ongoing collaboration despite differing views on the practical implementation of inclusive education in various contexts. Similarly, most key informants credited IDA's overall principles, vision and mission as a mechanism for promoting stronger cohesion. Key informants indicated that the Secretariat staff involved in programme activities lived out these values through

diplomacy, inclusive facilitation, partnership development and tenacious advocacy. However, a small number of key informants also said that the needs and interests of Indigenous people and women with disabilities are not prioritized enough in the disability movement and IDA. These informants said they have to “push” to have their voices heard within their own DPOs, and at other international or national forums. While significant efforts have already been made at IDA, there appears to be a need for more visible acknowledgement and recognition of the needs and interests of women and Indigenous people with disabilities.

Externally, a myriad of factors has impacted the performance and outcomes of the Catalyst Programme. A key factor here is the **valuing of disability inclusion at the international, regional, national and organizational levels**. Our analysis suggests that greater outcomes were achieved when duty bearers and other stakeholders valued disability inclusion. An example of this was the successful partnership between AOPD and the Arab Regional office of UN Women. On the other hand, the lack of inclusion created barriers for participation as demonstrated at the Beijing +25 African consultation where a delegation of African women with disabilities protested the lack of accessibility of the room until they successfully achieved access to attend the consultation.

Other external factors include the socio-economic and political environment, organizational context, local histories and culture that impact the outcomes of the programme. These external contextual factors will be discussed next.

### ***Context***

Our analysis of contextual factors impacting the performance and outcomes of the Catalyst Programme resonate with the current contextual analysis in the IDA strategic framework 2020-2023. This indicates that IDA is keenly aware of the context in which they are working to advance the rights of persons with disabilities and address those challenges through the components of the Catalyst Programme.

At a global level, our analysis clearly points to the **existence of the CRPD and the inclusion of disability in the SDGs** as a key contextual factor that underlines the entire Catalyst Programme. The SDGs are integral to IDA's work to promote inclusive, sustainable development in line with the CRPD and the progressive realization of the rights of diverse persons with disabilities. According to the findings of the IDA Global Survey and articulated in IDA's strategic framework:

Generally, DPOs perceive that, as compared with one year ago, their involvement and influence with governments, regional organisations, UN agencies and funding agencies are increasing, although some groups of persons with disabilities are much less involved than others and overall DPOs consider they are less consulted than other civil society groups. (p. 6)

People with disabilities and DPOs are among the most marginalized groups in the world with fewer economic opportunities, higher rates of poverty, poorer health and lower education than people without disabilities (World Health Organization & World Bank, 2011; World Health Organization, 2017).

**The global disability movement is largely under resourced** and disability activists are often socially, physically, and economically excluded from many spaces of power and influence to hold duty bearers accountable. **Many DPOs are operating with limited resources and staffing which limits their opportunities for participation and effectiveness in advocacy.** Furthermore, several informants said their organizational advocacy was hindered by their limited access to information and communication technology available in their country. These limitations often force DPOs to focus on one or two issues at a time and also limits their opportunities to participate in national, regional or international forums. The gross marginalization of people with disabilities contributes to their limited networks and capacity for fundraising.

**This marginalization is exacerbated in crisis-affected areas.** Several key informants described how instability and security risks in their countries affected their ability to mobilize people with disabilities and advocate for inclusion and accessibility. For example, one key informant described the challenges to connect with and advocate for people with disabilities in rural areas of their country because of instability, safety and security risks compounded by inaccessible transportation within the country.

As acknowledged by the World Health Organization and the UN, disability is now understood to be a human rights issue. "People are disabled by society, not just by their bodies. These barriers can be overcome, if governments, nongovernmental organizations, professionals and people with disabilities and their families work together" (World Health Organization, 2017). However, the **political will** of governments and other duty bearers to promote inclusion and accessibility has an impact on the achievement of tangible outcomes for the progressive realization of human rights for people with disabilities.

In their current strategic framework, IDA acknowledges these challenges as the reluctance of many large Western powers to promote human rights enforcement. The rise of neoliberalism and nationalism hinders inclusive global development and reduces support for foreign aid while shifting priorities "to fighting terrorism, global diseases, reducing migration or securing better trade deals" (International Disability Alliance Strategic Framework, p. 6). Furthermore, our analysis points to the repercussions of reduced support, as most key informants described impediments to collaboration between organizations as a result of having to compete among one another for scarce financial resources.

This **competition for resources compounds a history of fragmentation and identity politics in the disability movement**, which presents a challenge for the cohesion needed to speak with a united voice. It will take time for the movement to embrace an intersectional, cross-disability approach. The diversity of IDA members in terms of disability representation and organizational capacity reflects this complex history. This means that there is a need to consider where people are starting from and the preconditions that may or may not be present to support their advocacy. According to key informants and our document review, the IDA Secretariat is working collaboratively with members by “*respecting where they are at, and where they want to go*”.

Key informants described how their local context impacted their relative starting point for advocacy. **Varying levels of challenges and barriers exist for people with disabilities globally, dependent on their country’s laws on disability inclusion and this thereby determines their starting point for advocacy and inclusion.** For example, some countries have mental health laws that prohibit marriage for people with psycho-social disabilities thereby provoking advocacy for the right to marry. Other countries have laws that offer provisions for the inclusion of students with disabilities in mainstream schools thereby provoking greater inclusion with funding for accommodations and support persons. 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 live with more than one type of disability.

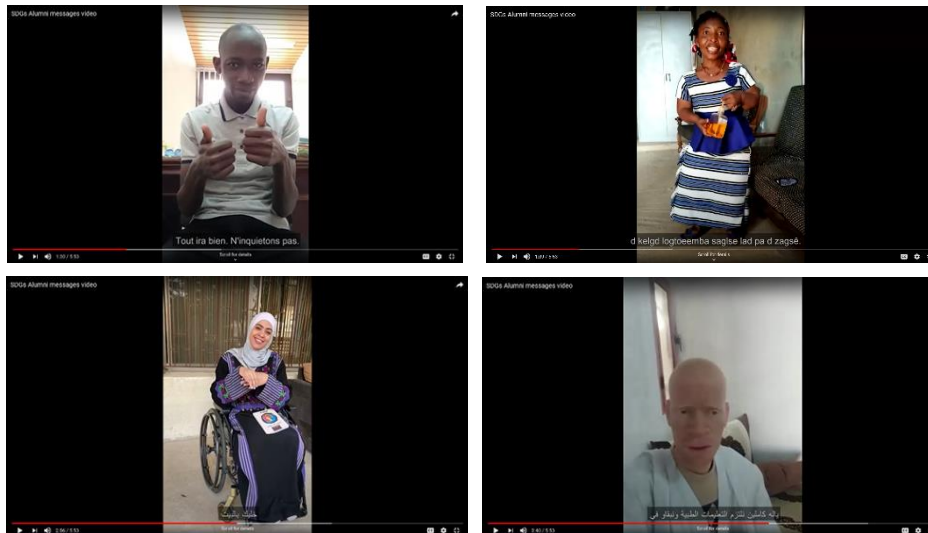
**The current global pandemic** has presented new challenges and opportunities. Several key informants commented that the COVID 19 crisis has disrupted greater progress at an organizational and national level. One key informant described that their organization was delayed in working on implementation of inclusive education policies in March 2020. Another key informant described parliamentary delays in the passing of national inclusive education policies and social unrest as a result of the pandemic crisis. Some outputs have been delayed as a result of the pandemic such as SDG reports and Bridge CRPD-SDGs trainings scheduled in March 2020.

On the other hand, the COVID 19 crisis has also presented new opportunities for collaboration and cohesion. IDA members have come together to present a united voice on the impacts of COVID 19 on people with disabilities, including a hub page<sup>8</sup> to share recent updates and resources. In addition, Bridge alumni have taken the

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<sup>8</sup> Hub page URL: <http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/covid-19-and-disability-movement>

opportunity to demonstrate cohesion and mutual support through the creation of videos that send a united message of support and hope. This video represents the values of community and mutual support among Bridge alumni, as well as the diversity of participants of the training. Below are some screenshots of diverse Bridge alumni from different countries of the Global South sending their message of hope and solidarity to others. This video can be accessed at the following URL: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SA\\_ILldT7jg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SA_ILldT7jg&feature=youtu.be)



Overall, the IPC, NOLB grants, SDG reports, IDA Global Survey, Inclusive Education Flagship and the Women and Girls with Disabilities Flagship, and the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative are working in tandem to address the challenges and opportunities surrounding the Catalyst Programme. The programme components, facilitated by key resource and reasoning mechanisms are beginning to develop the preconditions for accountability and increased capacity among persons with various disabilities, and DPOs including underrepresented groups.



## Recommendations for the Disability Catalyst Programme

This independent evaluation is congruent with IDA's principles as a learning organization that is open to using critical thought and reflection to advance the human rights of people with disabilities. Overall, our evaluation affirms IDA's efforts to promote the capacity, solidarity, and leadership of diverse people with disabilities through their representative organizations in all regions of the world. The following recommendations are intended to enhance the interaction and synergies between the components for future phases of the Catalyst Programme. Given the scope and ToRs of this evaluation, our recommendations are directed to the IDA Secretariat with considerations of how to involve IDA members and other partners in the development of the Catalyst Programme going forward.

### **1. Consolidate collaboratively the learnings from the Catalyst**

**Programme.** Many key informants expressed excitement about the increased data and information produced through the Catalyst Programme and are independently considering what to do next. There is opportunity now to leverage the relationships built between IDA members and their constituents to enhance capacity for knowledge mobilization in the future. Thus, we recommend sustaining efforts to generate evidence based on the needs and interests of diverse DPOs and to collaboratively strategize knowledge mobilization efforts. Our evaluation indicates:

- The IDA Secretariat should continue to be a key facilitator of this process. Most key informants commented that the technical skills and support received from the IDA Secretariat was a key mechanism affecting outcomes and impacts;
- Knowledge mobilization efforts should align with the goal of stronger cohesion within the disability movement while creating more opportunities and platforms for diverse voices. This includes creating dedicated spaces for women, Indigenous and other under-represented groups of people with disabilities to inform the development of solutions and decision making; and,
- The IPC is an ideal space for IDA members to coalesce and collaborate to enhance capacity for all members to engage in a united knowledge mobilization strategy.

### **2. Expand mentorship and training for more effective monitoring and the development of evidence for advocacy.** Key informants said that the research training and expertise provided by IDA was a key mechanism affecting programme outputs. Key informants expressed the valuable

expertise of consultants through research training and mentorship in the development of the SDG reports and other initiatives supported by the NOLB grants such as the Global Report on the Situation and Rights of Persons with Deafblindness and the IFHOH needs assessment survey. This mentorship and support were described as an essential mechanism to enhance the varying capacities of IDA members. Our evaluation also revealed that the SDG reports varied in rigour and focus. Thus, we recommend:

- Provide more research guidance or mentorship to increase the technical quality of the SDG reports. This would include more trainings like the global workshop on SDG report writing held in Geneva in January 2019;
- Enhance training and support to DPOs to strategically develop SDG reports with clear actionable goals. Some key informants said that the SDG reports could be improved to explicate recommendations for strategic advocacy based on evidence gathered in the reports; and,
- Maintain participatory processes in the development of evidence for monitoring and advocacy. This process should be led by diverse people and DPOs in accordance with their needs and interests and in collaboration with other stakeholders and allies. Several key informants commented that engaging duty bearers through participatory research processes contributed to an increased sense of shared ownership towards changes in national policies or programmes.

### **3. Amplify the work on intersectionality to make it more visible.**

Evaluation findings indicate that there are several ways in which the Catalyst Programme is utilizing an intersectional framework to promote inclusion. However, there is opportunity to do more to enhance the visibility of diverse and under-represented groups of people with disabilities in the work of the Catalyst Programme. These opportunities include:

- Increase the visibility of the priorities of Indigenous people and women with disabilities as disempowered groups. This would mean engaging more with disabled women's and Indigenous organizations at the national, regional and global level as recommended in the previous Sida evaluation (2019);

- Broaden the focus and definition of under-represented groups to include women and Indigenous people from diverse religious and age groups, racialized and LGBTQ+ communities, etc. This intersectional approach can be used as an exemplar of the strategy outlined in the UN system-wide policy on disability inclusion (United Nations, 2019); and,
- Expand the Quality Criteria of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative for composition, diversity and inclusiveness of participants in other Catalyst Programme components.

**4. Support IDA members to develop capacity to meaningfully engage with regional and national constituencies.** This would involve gathering and sharing lessons learned from IDA members who have engaged in regional or national level projects through various components of the Catalyst Programme in the past through dedicated advocacy funds to target regional and national institutions through IDA's members. We also recommend considering ways of linking local rights-related issues, solutions and leaders to state-level, regional and global forums, networks, and discussions. this is a bit repetitive, hence the cut. Thus, we recommend expanding on these efforts to increase regional and national level impacts.

**5. The IDA Global Survey on DPO Participation in Development Programmes and Policies is a pilot project worthy of continuation.** Several key informants suggested that there is value in developing and enhancing the IDA Global Survey to build capacity for ongoing data collection. Lessons learned through the development and implementation of the survey were clearly documented in the initial report and echoed by some key informants (International Disability Alliance, 2019). In addition to addressing these lessons learned by improving the data collection and analysis process, we recommend:

- Adding questions to capture and map the different types and nature of DPOs involved in the movement, as well as their networks and connections to broader civil society organizations. This information could be used to support connections between organizations and gather a clearer picture of the global disability rights movement.

**6. Continue to pursue funding opportunities that support the practice of fiscal hosting.** This evaluation reinforces previous recommendations to expand the practice of fiscal hosting for IDA members with limited capacity. Our evaluation suggests that the DFID funding model supporting the Catalyst Programme was a key mechanism in the outcomes of the IPC and

NOLB grants. According to key informants, this funding model provided the opportunity for IDA members to direct funds toward initiatives based on the expressed needs and interests of their constituents. This funding also provided the opportunity for members to take the lead on Catalyst initiatives and projects with support from the IDA Secretariat.

**7. Advocate for reasonable funding requirements by donors to promote equitable access to funds for DPOs 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 DPOs to support further fundraising.



## Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative

The Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training is a collaborative capacity development initiative facilitated by IDA and IDDC. The goal of the initiative is to support DPOs and disability rights advocates to develop a cross-disability perspective and comprehensive knowledge of the CRPD in relation to development, with a focus on the SDGs. This capacity building initiative is intended to reinforce participants' advocacy for inclusion in development efforts and the progressive realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.

The Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative has evolved over the past 10 years. The timeline in Appendix B depicts critical moments and milestones in the development of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative from 2010 to 2020. These milestones and outcomes in the timeline highlight the collaborative evolutionary process of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative. These milestones reflect how the design and implementation of the initiative has responded to the expressed needs and interests of diverse people with disabilities, including underrepresented groups. The collaborative nature of the initiative is reflected in the establishment of the Bridge steering committee comprising equal representation from IDA and IDDC member organizations, who also take part in reflection workshops to critically reflect on the process and outcomes of Bridge.

Moreover, the Bridge training has been translated and conducted in multiple languages in various locations across the Global South. It has also been modified to focus specifically on Article 11 of the CRPD. The establishment of the Training of Trainers (ToT) promotes sustainability and decentralization by training people with disabilities to facilitate and conduct the training themselves. The ToT focuses on in-depth understanding and capacity to explain the core of the CRPD, covering issues related to public policy and governance and inclusive SDG implementation in different development contexts. The ToT provides trainers with the experience of facilitating sessions by building capacity for inclusive facilitation.

The timeline in Appendix B points to moments where Bridge Alumni have mobilized their knowledge and skills to support IDA member organizations, with additional national or regional trainings and with the development of SDG reports. Likewise, some IDA and IDDC members have supported Bridge Alumni facilitators to gain exposure at international forums. The following sections will further discuss these milestones and outcomes from the perspective of key informants and Bridge Alumni.

## **Outcomes**

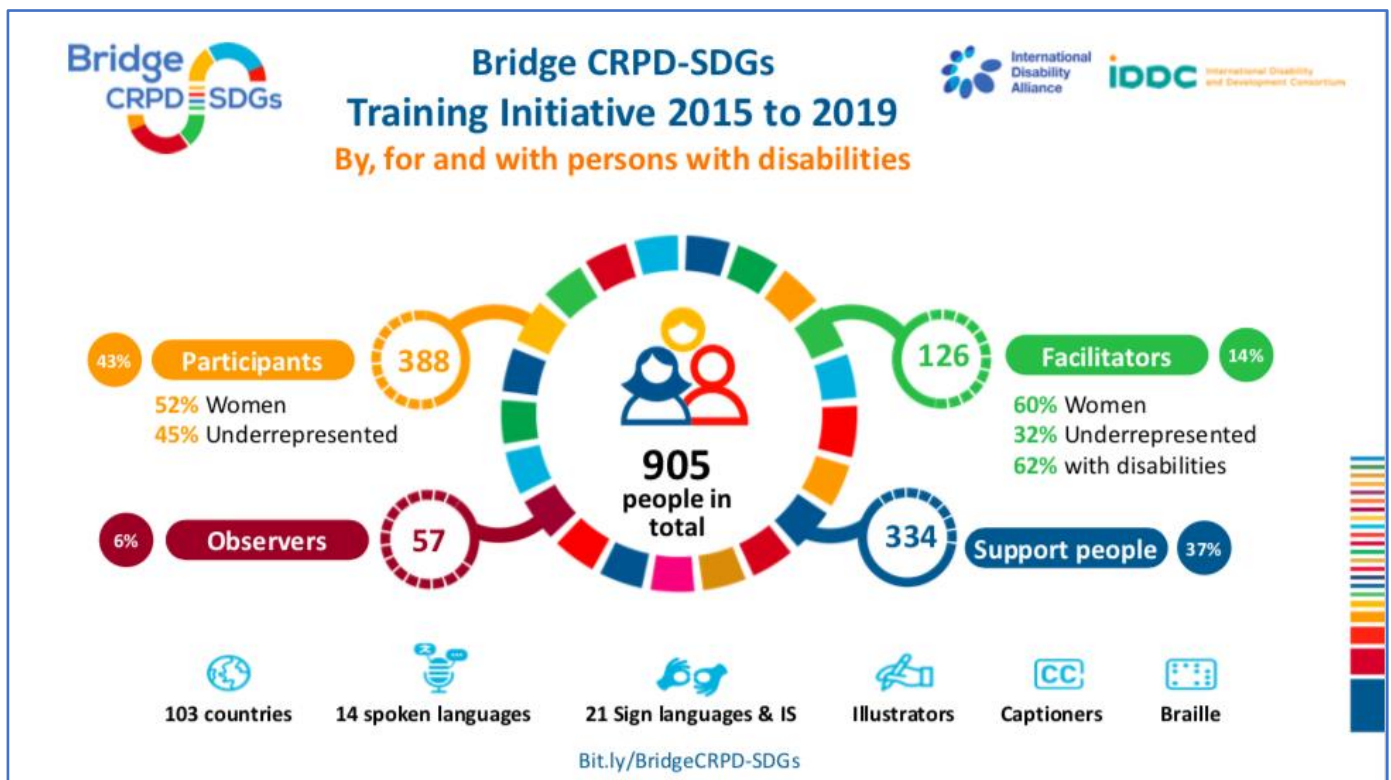
Our analysis points to three key outcomes of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative. These outcomes include extensive engagement of diverse and marginalized people with disabilities, knowledge development and knowledge mobilization. Our findings also suggest that the Bridge training is helping to build community among diverse and marginalized people with disabilities around the world.

### ***Engagement of diverse and marginalized people with disabilities***

The Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative supports emerging leaders in the disability movement through explicit inclusion of, and actively engaging, people from underrepresented groups. Requiring such inclusion of underrepresented groups is an aspect of the Basic Quality Criteria, Working Principles and Development of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative. In 2017, the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Steering Committee established the Basic Quality Criteria and Working Principles to provide clear steps for inclusion of diverse and marginalized people with disabilities in the training initiative. These criteria are shared publicly on the IDA website at:

[www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/bridge\\_quality\\_criteria\\_principles\\_development\\_oct2018.pdf](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/bridge_quality_criteria_principles_development_oct2018.pdf). The purpose of these criteria is “to ensure a basic accepted level of diversity and inclusiveness” including equality between men and women; disability diversity “at the very least including those identified in article 1 of the CRPD (people with: low vision and blindness, hard of hearing, deaf and deaf blindness, intellectual disability, psychosocial disability). When applicable and relevant according to the context, particular attention should be paid to specific groups, such as people with leprosy or people with albinism.”; and age distribution to ensure participation of individuals across the lifespan (International Disability Alliance & International Disability and Development Consortium, 2018, p. 2).

As of 22 March 2020, a total of 905 people from 103 different countries have been involved in this training initiative. This total includes 388 participants, 334 support people, 126 facilitators and 57 observers. The Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative includes significant participation from women (52%) and people from underrepresented groups (45%). Bridge facilitators were similarly diverse with 62% of facilitators being persons with various disabilities. More than half (60%) of these facilitators were women, and about one third (33%) were people from underrepresented groups. The Bridge training initiative promotes the principle of inclusion through the provision of interpretation in 14 spoken languages, 21 national sign languages, international and tactile sign, as well as the support of illustrators, captioning and the use of braille. This information is displayed in the following infographic according to participant tracking data collected by the Bridge coordination team.



Many key informants described that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training was a unique opportunity for peer learning. Key informants said that their exposure to people with various disabilities and their DPOs from other countries and contexts contributed to their increased understanding of the complexity and diversity of disability.

In this way, most key informants expressed strong appreciation for the accessible, inclusive nature of the training. Several key informants indicated that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training serves as an exemplar of accessibility and inclusion. These comments are supported by more than 300 support people who were involved in the training from 2015 to 2019 which included interpreters, attendants, other personal assistants, illustrators, captioners, and others.

Some key informants mentioned that participating in the Bridge training developed their individual skills for inclusive facilitation. For example, one key informant said:

*"Inclusive facilitation goes beyond my trainers' skills. It is about knowing how to interact with other types of disability, especially persons with intellectual or psychosocial disability. I feel more confident about how I can communicate with those persons and better include them in our work."*

Another key informant from the Middle East said:

*"The training was inclusive to persons with intellectual disabilities (including participants from other Arab countries with [intellectual disabilities] who attended the training) which inspired us to develop specific contents to motivate other persons with intellectual disabilities (and their families) to get further involved in the disability movement in [my country]."*

Several key informants said that they made lasting connections with other Bridge participants to expand their networks for advocacy and activism, as well as learn from other participants' lived experiences. For example, one key informant said:

*"I had a lot of exchanges with participants, especially with young activists from Tunisia, Jordan, Algeria, Mauritania, Sudan. We created an activists' network at the regional level that is still connected through a WhatsApp group where we exchange information and material and videos on our activities."*

Overall, the majority of participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with the training process. However, some key informants said there is more work to be done to create a more fully accessible and inclusive learning environment. These informants indicated that the attitudes of other participants presented challenges and barriers to the creation of a safe and inclusive space for all. These barriers were usually described as negative stereotypes about the learning abilities of individual participants with intellectual disabilities and/or deafblindness. These barriers were overcome by skilled facilitators who created space for people with intellectual disabilities and/or deafblindness to "speak up" and challenge these negative stereotypes amongst their peers.

However, a few key informants commented that the pace of the training was challenging to maintain for some people, particularly people with psycho-social disabilities, intellectual disabilities and deafblindness. One informant described that, *"persons with deafblindness, due to their dual sensory impairment, can often struggle to keep up with the tempo during different workshops/ meetings"*.



To address these concerns, the Bridge training program included daily check ins with participants. Part of this process used a 'Moodometer' to allow participants to share their feelings about each day of the training. Training facilitators gathered this feedback each day and debriefed as a team to adapt or revise their training process to meet the needs and interests of participants. Several key informants commented favorably about the flexibility of the facilitators and their capacity to modify the training based on participants' needs and interests.

### **Knowledge development**

At an individual level, more people have been trained on the CRPD and SDGs, resulting in their increased knowledge, awareness and skills concerning these international instruments. The majority (These findings reflect the original intent of the initiative which was to bridge the expertise of IDA with the expertise of IDDC and its members (ToTAL and ToTIF, respectively). For example, as one key informant described:

*"I wanted to come away [from Bridge] with a more comprehensive understanding of the CRPD and SDGs. I knew disability in real life, but the training gave me a conceptual framework to put words on it and speak about it."*

Bridge participants described their increased knowledge as a powerful personal resource. For instance, one individual was motivated to participate in the training because of their interest in learning about how to advocate for the realization of human rights. They also wanted to gain a better understanding of what discrimination looks and feels like, and how to enjoy things on an equal basis with others in the community. This participant said they were both informed *and* empowered by participating in Bridge such that:

*"When you look at the rights of a person with a disability, you see how you don't enjoy rights like others. But if empowered with this knowledge about rights, I can stand in front of anyone, commercial or political, for my rights."*

Similarly, other informants expressed an increased personal recognition of the need to shift power toward people with disabilities and DPOs to affect positive change in the progressive realization of human rights. Yet another participant indicated that their sense of confidence has grown exponentially because of their Bridge training. These powerful reflections suggest that individuals experience multiple positive outcomes because of participating in Bridge training.

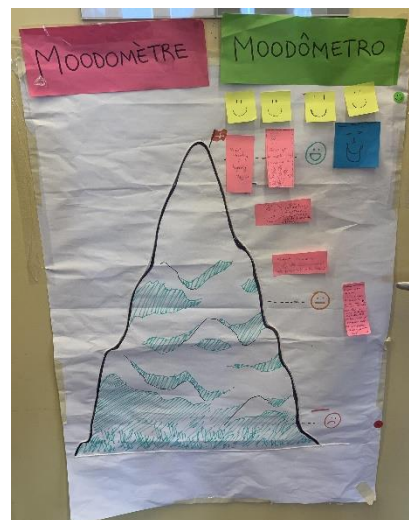


Figure 1: Image of a Moodometer used in a Bridge training

Some key informants from the Arab region commented on the practical policy-related information provided in the training such that: *"The training content was pretty much connected with the existing policy framework in the Arab countries"*. Similarly, many Alumni Survey respondents indicated they had gained capacity for disability rights advocacy and to advocate for change at the national or subnational level. Several key informants spoke about how Bridge has helped them in the training, webinars and workshops they run as individuals, and in policy discussions they have been having with government officials, which include discussions about models of disability that can inform policy development.

Thus, key informants and Bridge Alumni survey respondents indicated that they have mobilized their experiences in Bridge in various ways. Some of these efforts include strategic efforts to enhance their advocacy and public policy influencing.

### ***Knowledge mobilization***

Knowledge mobilization involves moving knowledge into action. With reference to the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative, knowledge mobilization involves making connections between, on one hand, knowledge about the CRPD and SDGs and, on the other, policy and/or practice to improve access and inclusion in various organizations and sectors. Most Bridge Alumni Survey respondents (73%) reported that the training supported them to engage in strategic advocacy on public policy influencing and/or to monitor the implementation of the CRPD and/or the SDGs<sup>9</sup>. Some examples of these activities included:

- Ensuring national general elections were accessible to all;
- Promoting legal harmonization of national laws and policies in line with the CRPD;
- Identifying entry points for inclusion of disability issues in development plans, and for holding governments accountable to the CRPD;
- Auditing mainstream community programs for disability inclusiveness; and,
- Using data and budget analyses for advocacy with various government ministries.

Part of this process involved sharing knowledge with others to increase awareness and understanding of the CRPD and SDGs. All key informants who took part in the ToT told us that they have used their knowledge to facilitate trainings on the CRPD

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<sup>9</sup> Our analysis revealed no statistically significant differences between groups of Bridge Alumni survey respondents according to the social categories of gender, disability status, indigeneity, rural/urban and age. However, our analysis did find that 28% of people who identified with multiple social categories reported participating in a UN monitoring mechanism post-Bridge; in comparison to 49% of people who did not identify with multiple social categories. This does not necessarily mean that Bridge alumni with intersectional identities (as defined by the survey) were "less likely" to be involved in UN monitoring than those without intersectional identities. These results may present a pattern for consideration in future programme development in relation to supports for equitable access to UN monitoring mechanisms but cannot be verified by our quantitative analysis.

and SDGs in their home countries and regions. These informants told us that they have adapted the training in their home countries to reflect the local context and meet the specific needs of grassroots activists and other stakeholders. Many of these trainings have aimed to increase technical capacity to monitor the implementation of the CRPD and SDGs.

Some ToT alumni have also facilitated training on the CRDP and SDGs for humanitarian organizations and other international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). One key informant described how representatives from INGOs began to recognize they can work *with* people with disabilities and their organizations from a rights-based approach to disability. Similarly, several key informants commented that the Bridge training challenges the medical or charity approach of mainstream development and humanitarian INGOs. The Bridge training promotes equality of people with disabilities as not just service users, but equal partners in development and humanitarian action.

At an organizational level, many participants indicated that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative has contributed to building the capacity of their DPOs. Several key informants indicated that Bridge has contributed to their organization's knowledge sharing, most notably on the linkages between the CRPD and SDGs, but also on inclusive facilitation. For instance, one informant said their organization plans to send four people from their initial Bridge training to a ToT to develop their skills as facilitators. Another respondent said Bridge equipped their organization with the ability to *"organize and implement each step of the Bridge – before, during and after."* The context for this statement was in discussion of the organization's improved ability to deal with the practical logistics of implementing and managing complex events.

For some, this has taken form in stronger organizational positioning in state-level policy and development work. For instance, one key informant observed how the diffusion of knowledge and skills acquired through Bridge has resulted in broadly distributed organizational capacity development, which in turn is impacting positively on national governments such that:

*"Our organization increased its capacity to conduct national advocacy activities, in particular with national decision-makers and the media. When doing advocacy, we now refer to up-to-date disability approach based on the international standards."*

Another key informant said:

*"Our DPO is stronger now more visible, with increased strategic vision on how we should promote the rights of persons with disabilities efficiently."*

While these outcomes were positive, many key informants suggested there is a need to develop formal opportunities for Bridge alumni to mobilize their knowledge into action and build the capacity of the disability movement. As one key informant said:

*"Some [Bridge participants] are focusing on political participation, some on employment, others on education as tasks. Bridge has enabled people to work on strategies to enable knowledgeable parties to share information. Participants are asking for next steps. They want to continue."*

Several key informants pointed to the need for allies and opportunities within and beyond the disability sector. For example, one key informant commented:

*"People with disabilities by themselves can't form a big enough number of people to bring about change. Advocates without disabilities are needed in the areas of education, employment and health sectors where a lot of people without disabilities presently work."*

Some key informants suggested there is opportunity to enhance the partnership between IDA and IDDC by facilitating formal opportunities within their member organizations for Bridge alumni. These informants suggested that Alumni can share their knowledge and experiences to enhance operations and programming for diverse people with disabilities, including underrepresented groups. One key informant said that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative supports participants to clarify *"what inclusive development means...how to achieve effective participation [and] how to use accommodations to engage with supply-side actors to bring about effective participation."* In this way, several key informants suggested that Bridge alumni have the knowledge to support service providers and mainstream INGOs to enhance inclusive development efforts and promote human rights.

At an international level, about one third of Bridge Alumni Survey respondents reported that they had participated in a UN monitoring mechanism since their participation in Bridge. Most of these respondents reported participating in the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Some participants also reported participating in the:

- Universal Periodic Review,
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW),
- Committee on the Rights of the Child,
- Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
- Committee against Torture,
- Human Rights Committee, and,
- Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

These examples reflect efforts to mainstream participation of people with disabilities in various UN processes. This extent of participation reflects the UNDIS goal of promoting disability inclusion such that people with disabilities are engaging in processes across the work of the UN, including disability-specific programmes and beyond.

In relation to inclusive development efforts, about half of all survey respondents reported that they had participated in an SDG monitoring process since their participation in Bridge. Respondents reported being involved in an SDG Voluntary National Review, the HLPF, and other regional coordination mechanisms for the SDGs.

Overall, our analysis indicates that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative is building the capacity of diverse people with disabilities and DPOs to engage in monitoring the implementation of the CRPD and SDGs through various avenues at the national, regional and international levels. However, these capacities are limited by the opportunities and resources available for knowledge mobilization. Next, we will discuss some of the key internal and external factors affecting performance and impacts of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative.

### ***Internal and external factors affecting performance***

This evaluation of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative points to some key factors affecting the initiative's performance and outcomes underlined with respect for individual trajectories. As described in the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative flyer, the initiative proposes several differentiated trajectories for participants. These trajectories are listed as opportunities to engage further in training, co-facilitation and advisory opportunities, as well as practical exposure to UN mechanisms. These individual trajectories reflect how the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative supports individuals and organizations to consider their own interests, skills, contexts and access to resources.

Thus, outcomes and impacts of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative should be considered in relation to individual and organizational starting points and their positioning in the global disability movement.

In line with our realist evaluation approach, factors that affect the initiative's performance and impacts are described in terms of mechanisms and context. Mechanisms include individual or organizational resources such as information, skills, money, material resources, etc., as well as values, beliefs, attitudes, etc. Context refers to the socio-economic and political environment, organizational context, local histories and culture that impact the outcomes of a programme.

### ***Mechanisms***

Several key mechanisms that impact the individual and organizational outcomes and impacts. These mechanisms include access to and the support of a DPO; effective mentorship; connections and support from other organizations; access to formal opportunities for knowledge mobilization; logistical and technical support from the Bridge coordination team at the IDA Secretariat; and funding to pay for training costs.

Our findings indicate that **access to and the support of a DPO** is a key mechanism the development and mobilization of knowledge from Bridge. The capacity of Bridge alumni to advocate for accountability on the CRPD and SDGs appears to be linked to their access and support received from a DPO. Specifically, the Basic Quality Criteria of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative state a commitment to "Promoting DPOs and advocates with disabilities as central agents of change" targeting DPO advocates as the primary audience of the training aims to equip self-advocates with the skills required to participate and influence decisions that affect their lives. (International Disability Alliance & International Disability and Development Consortium, 2018, p. 3). Thus, to participate in Bridge, an individual must be connected to the disability movement via a DPO or a not legally constituted network. This DPO does not need to be an IDA member.

Our analysis also indicates that individuals who are connected to a DPO or other organization with effective mentorship, guidance and resources may be better able to mobilize knowledge for advocacy and public policy influencing than those who are not connected to these supports. Thus, the provision of **effective mentorship of experienced DPO leaders** to support individuals was another key factor that promoted or hindered the skill and knowledge development of individuals. Effective mentorship was described as a key factor in the development and emergence of new disability leaders.

Likewise, **connections and support from other organizations** engaged in broader human rights, development and/or humanitarian work may also promote knowledge mobilization. Several Bridge Alumni survey respondents said that having an affiliation with an organization enabled their ability to mobilise the knowledge they gained through the Bridge training. As one survey respondent noted:

*"Humanitarian action was already my area of work but participating in Bridge Article 11 allowed me to connect DPO members with multiple projects my organization is implementing, from accountability to affected populations to early childhood development and family violence."*

Another survey respondent noted:

*"As a result of Bridge, I was able to create and make linkages with a network of organisations that work with women and girls with disabilities. When [my country] came up for review [at the UN]...the Network worked together to draft a parallel report which was key in influencing the recommendations to [my state government] especially [regarding the needs of] women and girls with disabilities. We use these recommendations for advocacy."*

We also found that **access to formal opportunities for knowledge mobilization within organizations that are sufficiently resourced and value a rights-based approach to disability**. This is a key mechanism in the development of the capacities of Bridge Alumni. These opportunities may be within organizations in the disability, development and/or humanitarian sectors which could include IDA and IDDC members. However, opportunities are limited when organizations operate from a medical or charity model of disability whereby people with disabilities may be viewed as service users in need of treatment. Conversely, a rights-based approach views people with disabilities as holders of rights and is inspired by the values of dignity, autonomy, equality and the ethic of solidarity. Several key informants commented that organizations operating from a rights-based approach facilitates the inclusion of people with disabilities as equal partners in the design and implementation of programming and advocacy work with and beyond the disability sector.

Overall, our analysis suggests that the **logistical and technical support of the Bridge coordination team** and IDA Secretariat is essential to the effective coordination, accessibility, and inclusivity of training cycles. Many key informants praised the coordination team for their support and principled approach to the Bridge training process. However, some key informants raised questions about the transparency and communication about the Bridge process and inclusion of a broader range of potential participants. Specifically, some key informants suggested that IDDC members are interested in working with Bridge Alumni but were unsure

how to connect with them. Other key informants believed that participation in Bridge was limited to IDA members. These concerns were linked to communication by the IDA Secretariat. Our evaluation found considerable efforts by the Secretariat to share information on the IDA website and directly with partners about the Bridge process and outcomes (e.g., Bridge quality criteria and working principles, activity reports, alumni survey findings, training presentations, etc.). Our analysis suggests that the expressed need for increased communication and transparency may result from the need to increase the staffing capacity in the Bridge coordination team and to place a stronger focus on communications with partners and other stakeholders.

Part of the support provided by the Bridge coordination team is for managing **funding to pay for training costs**. Indeed, the financial costs of each Bridge cycle are high. Expenses for international transport and reasonable accommodations range from approximately 30% to 40% of the total budget. These include costs for interpreters, captioners, illustrators, and other disability support persons to ensure inclusion of all participants. The cost of reasonable accommodations and supports is an essential mechanism to promote full accessibility and inclusion. The training also requires securing large budgets, often with numerous funding contracts. Some funding is earmarked on specific budget lines, and some expenses are unanticipated. As a result, funding arrangements are complex with many transaction costs for the Bridge coordination team as well as for funding partners. In view of the significant financial costs and complexity of running the Bridge and ToT training, one partner commented, *"We would prefer to financially support IDA's coordination role at global level rather than providing punctual activity-based funding to balance the budget for certain key activities or activities that pop-up in the course of time. We are [often] required to contribute to non-funded activities [approximately] 5 times per year, which is not efficient at all"*. This complexity of budgeting trainings is greatly impacted by the political economic context in which Bridge is operating, which will be discussed next.

### **Context**

Our evaluation found that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative is largely impacted by donor funding priorities, limited resources for the disability sector and the predominance of the medical and charity models of disability. Moreover, the local context in which Bridge alumni are working has an impact on their relative starting point for making positive change. The findings of our evaluation also reflect the relatively few opportunities for people with disabilities and DPO leaders to participate in development programmes and policies.

As a starting point, many informants said their capacity for knowledge mobilization was impacted by **limited funding of their local DPO and a de-prioritization of the needs and interests of people with disabilities**. For example, one



informant described their challenges raising funds for their local DPO to engage in advocacy for people with deafblindness. Another informant described the challenges of colonialism as perpetuating paternalistic values of people with disabilities in their national laws and policies. Other issues include public stigma, discrimination, myths and misconceptions about disability. These issues were related to a lack of public awareness about the rights of people with disabilities to be viewed and treated as equal citizens.

The **predominance of the medical and charity models of disability** were described as challenges for the progressive realization of the SDGs in line with the CRPD and inclusion of people with disabilities in various sectors. According to key informants and previous research, these models comprise the primary paradigm through which disability is understood in mainstream society (e.g., Barnes & Sheldon, 2010; Evans & Ayers, 2006; Harpur, 2012). These models view people with disabilities as the recipients of professional care and the development of interventions to cure or minimize disability. Criticisms of the model are based on the failure of professionals working in the disability sector to involve people with disabilities (e.g., Bridge Alumni) in a meaningful way except as service users. Accordingly, in the conventional medical and charity models, developing organizational capacities to transform disabling environments and systems have not been major priorities. Neither has strengthening organizational cohesion and capacity for collaboration with people with disabilities and DPOS. One Bridge Alumni articulated this challenge in relation to the global mental health movement which focuses on individual health rather than the social, political and economic inclusion of people with psycho-social disabilities. This informant also observed that there appears to be an increase in financial support for mental health initiatives in comparison to disability rights and inclusive development.

At a global level, **donor funding priorities** are a key factor impacting the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative. According to most key informants and our document review, the priorities of donors impacts where Bridge trainings are conducted, what activity costs are covered, and which organizations can access funding. Our evaluation revealed the African region has been a priority area for many donors which has resulted in more trainings and greater impacts in this geographic area. This means there have been fewer opportunities to offer training in Latin America, Asia Pacific and the Middle East and North Africa. Donor funding requirements and eligibility criteria impact how money can be spent. The complexity of reporting and accountability measures also presents challenges for some DPOs with limited capacity or experience with financial management.

Moreover, the **limited availability of local interpreters, captioners, illustrators, and other disability support persons** increases the financial costs of Bridge in the majority of the countries. This limited availability means that supports must be brought in from outside the country and adds to the logistical complexity and costs of a Bridge CRPD-SDGs training cycle. This limited availability of supports is due, in part, to systemic marginalization and exclusion of people with disabilities, especially underrepresented groups of people with intellectual disabilities, psycho-social disabilities, and people who are deafblind.

Overall, the prioritization and limited resources for the disability sector and disability rights movement leads to **competition for resources between organizations**. This competition presents challenges and barriers to cooperation among people with disabilities, DPOs and other NGOs. This competition limits opportunities for sustainability of mutual support and collaboration and creates divisions between organizations.

These limited resources also impact the **technical and human resource capacity of IDA and IDDC members** to create opportunities for knowledge mobilization with Bridge alumni. A few key informants described the extent of staff turnover within IDDC member organizations impacts organizational memory and knowledge of CRPD and SDGs which can impact their valuing of the potential contributions of Bridge Alumni. A few key informants also commented that they lack the financial resources to hire Bridge alumni to support their organization.

Furthermore, there are relatively **few opportunities for people with disabilities and DPOs to participate in development programmes and policies**. The IDA Global Survey revealed that a majority of DPOs have not been invited to take part in influential stages of policy or programme development such as budget decisions. Only 25% of 573 DPOs who took part in the survey reported that their government dedicated resources to ensure DPO participation in policy and/or programme development. Further, less than 17% of DPOs reported that attitudes and knowledge among government representatives were fully supportive of their participation, and only about 8% reported full accessibility of venues and of information and communication. Thus, barriers remain to ensure people with disabilities can meaningfully engage in programme and policy development. IDA's preliminary analyses of this survey data indicated that "some groups are less represented than others in consultations with government, UN and funding agencies. Persons with visual impairments, physical impairments and hearing impairments are considered to have more access than persons with intellectual disabilities, persons with deafblindness or Indigenous persons with disabilities" (International Disability Alliance, 2019, p. 31).

The Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative aims to address these systemic barriers and challenges facing people with disabilities and DPO leaders. The initiative has increased the number of skilled DPO advocates, including under-represented groups who can challenge the status quo. Next, we offer some reflections and summarize key learnings from this evaluation of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative.

### Reflections on the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative

As outlined in the evaluation ToRs, we present some brief reflections on the Bridge programme in accordance with OECD criteria. In terms of effectiveness and impact, findings from this evaluation indicate that **Bridge is effectively achieving its objectives and making an impact on individuals and organizations of people with disabilities**. Findings from this evaluation indicate that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training is supporting diverse and marginalized DPOs and disability rights advocates to develop an inclusive and comprehensive CRPD perspective on development with a focus on the SDGs. Data collected from key informant interviews and the 2020 Bridge Alumni Survey indicate that most alumni have increased knowledge of the CRPD and SDGs because of their participation in the Bridge training initiative. Our findings suggest that the Bridge training is helping to build community among diverse and marginalized people with disabilities around the world. Bridge alumni have also described their increased knowledge of inclusive facilitation based on the expressed needs and interests of people with various disabilities, and increased capacity for advocacy and public policy influencing at the national, regional and international levels.

In accordance with OECD evaluation criteria, **the objectives and design of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative are relevant and coherent with other programmes**. The Bridge initiative was developed by IDA, its members and IDDC members in response to the 2030 Agenda and the CRPD. As an alliance, IDA brings together over 1,100 DPOs from eight global and six regional networks. The integration of CRPD and SDGs training came from the expressed needs and interests of these DPOs. Each training includes daily participant feedback sessions (e.g., Moodometer) and facilitator debriefing sessions to reflect and pivot the facilitation strategy to meet the needs and interests of participants. Each Bridge training is adapted for relevance to the local context by including national or regional policies related to the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD and SDGs. As one key informant described, *“Every time we [conduct a Bridge training] it’s slightly different because we are looking at different laws each time. We look at the laws in the region or country in which the training is taking place.”* In addition, institutional strategy review meetings were held in 2017 and 2020. Participants included IDA and IDDC members to reflect on the impacts and ways to improve the Bridge initiative. The Bridge initiative was revised based on these reflections.

**In terms of sustainability, the ToT promotes decentralization of the training.**

Key informants that took part in the ToT said they have conducted multiple trainings in their home countries and regions to share knowledge about the CRPD and SDGs. However, their capacity to carry out trainings depends on their access to and support of an organization, their local political-economic context, as well as financial resources. These resources are affected by donor priorities and organizational fundraising capacity.

Currently, Bridge is an integral component of the Disability Catalyst Programme and the core training programme at IDA. Bridge is also one of the core training programmes at CBM, indicating external coherence with the priorities of other organizations. Bridge Alumni have also been invited to participate in other IDA activities and CBM has invited some Bridge Alumni to enhance their gender and disability policy.

**In terms of efficiency, the timeframe of the initiative provides a comprehensive training on the CRPD and SDGs.** The length of training cycles was developed over the pilot phases based on participant, IDA and IDDC member feedback. The pilot phases of Bridge allowed the steering committee and coordination team to develop materials to support the operations of the training (e.g., participant recruitment [quality criteria], accommodations for participation of all [including underrepresented groups] and accessible hotel accommodations). **The financial costs of each Bridge cycle are high but should be considered in relation to opportunity costs.** The financial costs are necessary to promote full accessibility and inclusion of all participants. This means that cutting costs for accommodations, disability supports, or travel can result in the exclusion of some people with disabilities or a diminished experience of face-to-face peer learning among diverse people with disabilities from different countries and contexts. Moreover, the training often requires securing large budgets with numerous funding contracts. These costs are related to the limited availability of disability supports (e.g., interpreters, support persons, etc.) in most countries; and a limited pool of financial resources to support disability rights training for people with disabilities. This means that the Bridge coordination team must cobble together funding from various sources to meet the needs and quality criteria of the training. As one key informant commented, "Bridge is a transformative experience.... It creates an environment [of inclusion and accessibility] that does not exist in mainstream society."

The Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative is an exemplar of inclusion and accessibility for participants to learn from. Next, we share recommendations based on evidence that suggests continued investment in the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training as an effective capacity development initiative.

## Recommendations for the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative

The following recommendations are congruent with the evolving nature of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative. We suggest a continuation of the reflective and collaborative processes that have helped shape the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative. As a joint initiative, our recommendations are intended to promote dialogue and collaborative decision making among IDA and IDDC members, donors, and other partners to enhance outcomes and impacts.

1. **Continue with in-person trainings.** This evaluation indicates that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative provides a unique peer learning experience of inclusivity and accessibility that is facilitated through in-person training experiences.
2. **Develop an online knowledge sharing and capacity building platform** to complement in-person training. We recommend the development of a dedicated Bridge CRPD-SDGs online knowledge sharing and capacity building platform to further enhance the sustainability and decentralization of the initiative. The development of an online platform was suggested by some key informants who wanted to support increased engagement in Bridge. The COVID 19 pandemic has highlighted the need for such a platform to connect participants, partners, and Alumni across the globe.

This platform may increase efficiency and reduce some of the costs per participant by reducing air travel and other transportation costs. While there will be an initial financial cost to develop the platform, the longer-term benefits may outweigh this initial expense. Reduced travel and transportation for participants has an additional benefit of reducing the carbon footprint of the initiative.

Our evaluation indicates that this platform should:

- Provide opportunities for participation in asynchronous virtual training modules, webinars, resources and/or opportunities for live (synchronous) web conferencing and mentoring.
- Enhance support for the growing community of Bridge Alumni who are connecting online using various platforms such as WhatsApp.
- Engage in a collaborative co-design process including IDA and IDDC member organizations, Bridge Alumni, DPOs or other stakeholders to develop the platform in accordance with their diverse interests and needs.
- Reflect the values and principles of inclusion and accessibility to the fullest extent possible in line with the Bridge Quality Criteria and Working Principles.

3. **Co-design a knowledge mobilization strategy** to support Bridge Alumni to act on what they have learned. Our evaluation indicates there is a role of the Bridge coordination team and steering committee in the mobilization of knowledge. There is a need to articulate how IDA and IDDC members should promote knowledge mobilization and formally support Bridge Alumni to engage in advocacy. This co-design process should include the perspectives of IDA and IDDC member organization representatives, Bridge Alumni, and donors.
4. **Facilitate formal opportunities for Bridge Alumni** to mobilize knowledge into action. We recommend:
  - **Establish shared responsibilities among IDA and IDDC member organizations** to promote inclusion of under-represented groups at a global, regional and national level as a central feature of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative.
  - **Identify or create various opportunities for Bridge Alumni** to mobilize knowledge in recognition of their various starting points and personal trajectories to enhance their knowledge and skills. These opportunities may include:
    - **Formal paid employment** or consultancies for organizations to benefit from the knowledge and experiences of Bridge Alumni. These opportunities should also promote the right to work in line with CRPD Article 27 (Work and employment) to offer meaningful work experience and the development of transferable skills for Alumni.
    - **Formal internships with financial honoraria and effective mentorship** in line with CRPD Article 24 (Education) in terms of promoting dignity and self-worth, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential.
  - **Use information gathered through the Bridge Alumni survey to identify potential opportunities and gaps in participation.** This survey is an efficient and informative data collection tool to reveal ways in which Bridge Alumni are applying their knowledge to influence public policies and reinforce DPO activists' capacities.
5. **Strengthen communication with partners and other stakeholders.** As a joint initiative, there is opportunity for the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative steering committee and coordination team to:
  - Develop a more effective joint communication strategy with greater participation of representatives from IDA and IDDC member organizations.

- Address frequently asked questions about:
  - Who is eligible to participate in Bridge?
  - How can organizations connect with Bridge Alumni?
  - How can an individual apply to participate in Bridge training?
  - How can participants stay connected with other Bridge Alumni?
  - Who will provide mentorship for Bridge Alumni?
  - How can participants use the knowledge they have gained for effective advocacy?

6. **Continue and enhance the Alumni survey.** We recommend continuing the Alumni survey on an annual basis to capture the perspectives of Alumni on outcomes and impacts of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative. To enhance this survey, we recommend reviewing the survey questions for **minor adjustments** including:

- Increased clarity of some questions to reduce the potential for ambiguity. For example:
  - Instead of: *"Would you be willing to mentor Bridge participants to review their assignments? If yes, what area would interest you more? Please indicate."*
  - Try this instead:
    - *"Would you be willing to review Bridge participant assignments?"*
    - *"If yes, please list your areas of interest."*
- Revising double-barreled questions to ask one thing per question. For example:
  - Revise: *"How has the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Initiative supported you to engage in strategic advocacy or to monitor the implementation of the CRPD and or the SDGs or to be exposed to regional or international events, meetings, consultations, etc.? Please, develop."*
  - To the following sample of questions that address each outcome separately using multiple choice or open-ended response options:
    - *"How has the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Initiative supported you to engage in strategic advocacy?"*
    - *"How has the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Initiative supported you to monitor the implementation of the CRPD?"*
    - *"How has the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Initiative supported you to monitor the implementation of the SDGs?"*

## Summary of Key Learnings

IDA's Disability Catalyst Programme has created new resources and impetus for the disability movement to collectively engage in framing the early years of SDG implementation in compliance with the CRPD. Our findings indicate that the intended outputs and early outcomes of the Disability Catalyst Programme have been met, and greater impacts are yet to be realized. The following points are a summary of key learnings in response to the evaluation questions. These learnings reflect the insights of staff at the IDA Secretariat, and members of the evaluation advisory groups including IDA and IDDC member representatives, and representatives from donor agencies.

- **The Catalyst Programme has contributed to preconditions for accountability on disability inclusion** at the international level, with some progress at the regional and national levels. These preconditions include increased space for access and inclusion of people with disabilities and DPOs; stronger cohesion of the disability movement; and increased data available to monitor progress on the CRPD and SDGs. Moreover, the Catalyst Programme has led to enhanced capacities of people with disabilities and DPOs. The Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative is a leading programme in the development of capacities by promoting knowledge development and mobilization.
- **The Catalyst and Bridge programmes have brought together diverse and marginalized people with disabilities and DPOs** in new ways that promote the values of collaboration and inclusive development. These programmes are working together to strike a balance between respect for diversity among people with disabilities, and stronger cohesion to speak with a united voice. This includes respect and recognition of individual and organizational contexts and starting points. The Catalyst Program explicitly acknowledges and addresses the varying capacities of IDA member organizations by working with some of the most marginalized people with disabilities and DPOs to promote greater equity.
- **The Catalyst Programme is an exemplar of participatory decision making.** The IPC stands out as an inclusive process to give ownership of decisions to IDA and IDDC member representatives with coordination support from the IDA Secretariat. The IPC is a unique opportunity for mutual learning and collaboration at an operational level. IDA members have developed their networks, technical skills, and advocacy work through active participation in the Catalyst Programme. This involvement was facilitated through the development of the IPC and the task teams of the Inclusive Education and Women and Girls with Disabilities Flagships.



- **The Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative sets an international standard for inclusive, accessible, and effective peer learning.** Evaluation findings suggest that Bridge offers a unique opportunity for diverse people with various disabilities and DPO leaders from various countries and contexts to experience inclusion and accessibility. The experience and knowledge gained through the training increases the capacity of people with disabilities and DPO leaders for influence and accountability across sectors at the international, regional and national levels.
- **Our analysis indicates that when the Catalyst Programme components are implemented together, the results lead to enhanced technical, financial, and social capital of all IDA member organizations.** This is achieved by working holistically to facilitate opportunities for collaboration, peer learning and knowledge sharing, as well as through the provision of financial and technical support facilitated by IDA. Key informants told us that they have gained knowledge about the needs, interests and operations of IDA member organizations and their constituencies, including those of underrepresented groups. The components of the Catalyst Programme appear to be working together to support members and other disability advocates and activists to strengthen cohesion in the disability movement.
- **There is more work to be done to collaboratively support the mobilization of knowledge gained through Bridge and other components of the Catalyst Programme.** The Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative has increased knowledge capacity of the CRPD and SDGs. Other components of the Catalyst Programme have increased data available to monitor progress on the CRPD and SDGs. Future phases of the Catalyst Programme should continue to develop strategies to support IDA members, partners and allies to turn this knowledge into meaningful action that promotes implementation of the SDGs in line with the CRPD.
- **Overall, evaluation findings indicate that the Catalyst Programme has had the greatest impact at the international level.** This is not surprising given IDA's focus as a global organization and its history of advocacy at the UN in Geneva and New York. There is more work to be done to build on successes and achieve greater multi-level impacts going forward.

## Conclusion

The Catalyst Programme highlights IDA's role as a facilitator of collective knowledge, and modelling the values and principles of intersectionality, the CRPD and inclusive development. Findings of this evaluation highlight the value of collaborative, inclusive processes that meaningfully engage diverse people and organizations in programme development and implementation. People with disabilities and DPO leaders have been involved in the development and implementation of all Catalyst Programme components and the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative. Not surprisingly, this evaluation indicates that these processes take time. It takes time to engage in shared decision-making, informed by critical thinking and reflection in order to address issues of power and promote greater understanding of other people's standpoints and experiences. This is particularly relevant when working from the perspectives of some of the most marginalized, and underrepresented, groups. These findings are relevant and congruent with best practices for the development of skills and knowledge that are essential for leaders to effect transformative system change.

Findings from this evaluation indicate a need for greater attention to multi-level analyses and actions that link individual experiences to broader structures and systems, that can reveal how power relations are shaped and experienced. This need should be addressed by duty bearers, IDA, the global disability movement, and its allies. Many relevant opportunities for participation, and inclusion of diverse people with disabilities at multiple levels, have been identified through this evaluation. These opportunities will likely be leveraged through the ongoing work of the Catalyst Programme, and Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative. As the demand for inclusion of DPOs increases at the international, regional, and national levels, duty bearers must assess the accessibility and inclusivity of invited spaces for meaningful participation. At the same time, there is a need to enhance the capacity of the movement to respond and participate meaningfully.

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## **Appendix A: Catalyst Programme Timeline**

The following timeline depicts critical moments and milestones in the development of the Catalyst Programme from January 2017 to March 2020. This timeline has been co-created in collaboration with the IDA Secretariat using information collected during key informant interviews and through our document review. It is not intended to depict all programme activities, rather it is intended to highlight some of the critical moments in the programme's three-year history.

### **January 2017**

- Catalyst Programme begins

### **February 2017**

- First IDA Programme Committee meeting held in Athens

### **March 2017**

- First IDA member fellowship funded under the Catalyst Programme begins

### **April 2017**

- Start of Pacific Disability Forum's work to develop the first Pacific regional SDG report from a CRPD perspective

### **June 2017**

- Dialogue on advancing the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities, in the context of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy summer school, June 2017- Galway

### **September 2017**

- Inclusion International (II) utilized an NOLB grant to develop its 'Empower Us' initiative as a way for self-advocates around the world to connect with each other and share ideas

### **November 2017**

- Start of the IDA Programme Manager position (IDA Secretariat)
- World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry (WNUSP) Transforming Communities for Inclusion of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities (TCI) participate in Trieste Conference on Mental Health

## **December 2017**

- Research training of the national federation of persons with disabilities from Niger held in Geneva which included meeting with UN entities and exchanges with IDA secretariat to strategize the development of their national SDG report

## **March 2018:**

- First technical workshop of the Inclusive Education Task Team held in London
- Second IDA Programme Committee meeting held in Beirut



*Figure 2: Photo of IDA and IDDC participants of IDA Programme Committee meeting, Beirut, 2018*

## **June 2018**

- World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB) utilizes NOLB grant to support people with deafblindness from across the world to participate in the Helen Keller World Conference held in Benidorm

## **July 2018**

- Presentation of the findings of the Niger SDG report by the African Disability Forum (ADF) at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF)

## **September 2018**

- WFDB launches initial global report on the situation and rights of persons with deafblindness

## **November 2018**

- Third IDA Programme Committee meeting held in Athens
- WNUSP workshop on advancing the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities held in Uganda
- WFDB East African Workshop on the rights of people with deafblindness in Africa held in Uganda
- Down Syndrome International (DSi) utilizes their NOLB to host training for self-advocacy group facilitators held in Lagos, Nigeria

## **December 2018**

- Women and Girls with Disabilities Flagship Task Team had its first face-to-face meeting in Cairo where they identified priorities for the Flagship and opportunities for engagement at the international level
- Launch of IDA Global Survey on DPO Participation in Development Programmes and Policies
- DSi establishes self-advocacy group of persons with Down syndrome in Nigeria

## **January 2019**

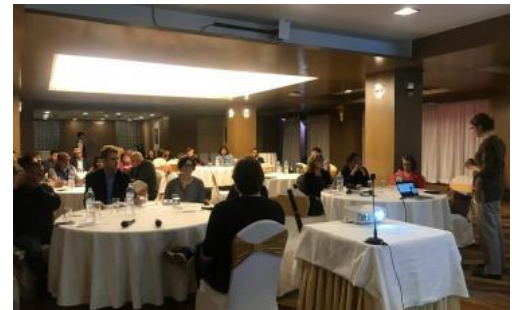
- Launch of the Disability Data Advocacy Working Group to align the global, regional, and national advocacy efforts towards the collection and disaggregation of disability data for effective SDG reporting
- Global workshop on SDGs report writing held in Geneva

## **February 2019**

- WNUSP workshop on advancing the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities held in Rwanda

## **March 2019**

- Second technical workshop of the Inclusive Education Task Team held in Kathmandu which resulted in a common vision for the implementation of inclusive education for CRPD compliant SDG 4
- Validation of the recommendations of the Latin American regional SDGs reports held in Cochachamba, Bolivia



*Figure 3: Photo of Inclusive Education Task Team members sitting around several round tables in a meeting room in Kathmandu, March 2019*



- WFDB workshop in Nepal to discuss the findings of the Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness
- WNUSP workshop on advancing the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities held in Kenya

### **April 2019**

- Fourth IDA Programme Committee meeting held in Madrid
- UN Women Regional Office of Arab States Staff Disability and Gender Inclusivity Training

### **June 2019**

- Dissemination of the preliminary results of IDA Global Survey on DPO participation in development programmes and policies at the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD
- UN-wide Disability Inclusion Strategy launched by the UN Secretary General during the opening of the Conference of State Parties to the CRPD
- DSI utilizes the NOLB grant to host the training workshop for the self-advocacy group facilitators in Bangladesh

### **July 2019**

- Third technical workshop of the Inclusive Education Task Team held in Brighton
- Launch of collaborative UN Women Disability Inclusion Webinar Series
- DSI establishes self-advocacy group in Bangladesh

### **August 2019**

- Departure of IDA Secretariat staff coordinator of Women and Girls with Disabilities Flagship and SDGs Reports
- Release of World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) Baseline Data Collection on Deaf Education in Nepal

### **October 2019**

- As part of the Women with Disabilities Flagship initiative, a delegation of African women with disabilities protested against the lack of accessibility of the venue for the Beijing +25 African review held by UN Women in Ethiopia. The protest delayed the start of the meetings until the entire delegation could access the venue to share their recommendations
- WDF Regional Human Rights Training for the Southern African Region held in Namibia



**November 2019**

- Full text of the IDA consensus paper on how to achieve SDG 4 in compliance with CRPD Article 24 validated by the Board of IDA and used by ADF during the regional Inclusive Education conference held in Niger
- Launch of European Disability Forum (EDF) Report on Regional Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities: Regional Sustainable Development Forums and Regional Integration

**December 2019**

- WFD Regional Human Rights Training for the South Asian Region held in Nepal
- WNUSP workshop Strengthening the Voices of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities in West Africa held in Sierra Leone
- WNUSP workshop Strengthening the Voices of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities in West Africa held in Togo

**January 2020:**

- Fifth IDA Programme Committee meeting held in Nairobi

**February 2020:**

- World Blind Union (WBU) coordinates the participation of IDA members' representatives and Bridge CRPD-SDGs Alumni at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum held in Abu Dhabi
- Validation workshop of the International Federation of the Hard of Hearing (IFHOH) needs assessment survey on the status of access to education for children who are hard of hearing held in Uganda and Nepal
- Independent evaluation begins

**March 2020:**

- Catalyst Programme concludes

## Appendix B: Bridge CRPD-SDGs Timeline

The Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative has evolved over the past 10 years. The following timeline depicts critical moments and milestones in the development of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative from 2010 to 2020. Like the Catalyst Programme timeline described above, this timeline has been co-created in collaboration with IDA Secretariat using information collected during key informant interviews and through our document review.

### 2010

- IDA launched the Workshop on the CRPD and its monitoring and reporting process, which covered trainings in several countries in Africa, Latin America, Europe, Asia, the Pacific and the Middle East and North Africa

### 2012

- IDA launched the Training of Trainers, Advocates and Leaders (ToTAL) in Asia, Africa and the Pacific on the CRPD

### 2014

- IDDC Inclusive Facilitation Task Group ran a joint training of trainers on inclusive facilitation which was delivered and led by people with disabilities for people with disabilities.<sup>10</sup>
- This session and a subsequent meeting between the IDDC task group on inclusive facilitation and IDA marked the start of Bridge CRPD-SDGs Initiative

### 2015

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted
- Pilot phase of Bridge CRPD-SDGs begins in Asia (English) and Latin America (Spanish)
- Bridge Steering Committee established



### 2016/2017

- The Consensus Workshop, in September 2016, established the consolidated version of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs material

<sup>10</sup> CBM (2019). *CBM's investment to Bridge CRPD-SDGs initiative: A reflection on our development and learning to date.*

- First training in the consolidated phase launched: East West African cycle (Module 1 in 2016; Module 2 in 2017)
- Pilot Training of Trainers (ToT) modules launched, 2016
- Bridge CRPD-SDGs fellowship established
- End of pilot phase

## **2017**

- Bridge CRPD-SDGs Quality Criteria established
- Bridge CRPD-SDGs coordination team established
- Bridge strategy review/reflection meeting held
- Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative became the core training programme for IDA
- Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative became one of the core training programmes at CBM
- The “first generation of trainers with disabilities” completed the ToT

## **2018**

- Bridge fellowship consolidated
- Development of non-English Bridge trainings in Swahili, Arabic and French
- ToT modules consolidated and the ‘second generation’ of trainers complete the ToT
- First Bridge CRPD-SDGs training led by “a new generation of trainers with disabilities” held in Uganda April 2018
- Training on the CRPD & SDGs held in Mozambique to foster momentum and opportunities to develop a Bridge CRPD-SDGs training to African and Portuguese speaking countries
- Technical workshop on Reporting the SDGs implementation in line with the CRPD held in Kazakhstan to foster momentum and opportunities to develop a Bridge CRPD-SDGs training to Russian speaking countries
- Bridge Alumni trainers support IDA members with their national or regional trainings in Africa and Asia (WNUSP and WFDB) and as well as in the development of their SDGs reports (African Disability Forum [ADF])
- Joint support from IDA and IDDC members, in particular Disabled Peoples Organizations – Denmark (DPOD), CBM, Sight Savers International (SSI), HI, LFTW, as well as the Bridging the Gap Project to expose Bridge Alumni facilitators to international fora such as the World Data Forum

## 2019

- Launch of Bridge CRPD-SDGs Module 3 on Article 11 of the CRPD on 20 to 27 June 2019 held in Beirut, Lebanon. This training focused on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. The training included 28 participants from 30 countries across five regions, of which 51% of participants and facilitators were women. The training included 11 co-facilitators and inclusive support team members, as well as three observers. The training was conducted in seven languages with the support of 12 interpreters for Spanish, English, Bahasa Indonesia and Arabic; as well as Nigerian, Ugandan and Palestinian Sign Language; guide interpreters; plain language, and Braille in Spanish and English. The following infographic illustrates this information.



## 2019 (continued)

- Launch of Bridge cycles in Swahili (Tanzania), Arabic (MENA), and French (West Africa)
- Bridge Alumni trainers support IDA members with national or regional trainings in collaboration with the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People (IFHOH), WNUSP, WFDB and AOPD; the development of SDGs reports by Red Latinoamerica de Organizaciones no Gubernamentales de Personas con Discapacidad y sus Familias (Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons With Disabilities and their Families) (RIADIS); Inclusive Education workshops; and women's rights advocacy around the Beijing +25 celebrations

- Joint support from IDA and IDDC members, in particular CBM to exposure of Bridge Alumni facilitators to international fora such as the High-level Political Forum
- Publication of Bridge CRPD-SDGs flyer and infographic in several languages (See Appendix A to view the English flyer and plain text only version)

## **2020**

- Bridge CRPD-SDGs Reflection Workshop held in Kenya (January)
- Independent evaluation conducted (February – June)
- Launch of collaborative Webinar Series on the Social Protection and disability inclusive response to Covid 19, held by IDA, Asean Disability Forum, ADF, TCI Asia Pacific, and the Center for Inclusive Policy (CIP), in partnership with Inclusive Futures, the International Labour Organization, and with the UNPRPD inclusive social protection project technical support
- Joint support from IDA and IDDC members, in particular CBM, to expose Bridge Alumni facilitators to international fora such as the 10th World Urban Forum

## Appendix C: Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative Flyer

Flyer retrieved from URL:

[www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/numbers-bridge](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/numbers-bridge)

Figure 4: Bridge Flyer page 1



The flyer is a colorful graphic with a large stylized number '3' in the background, composed of various colored segments. The text is arranged around and within this graphic.

**Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative**

**Curriculum**

- module 1** focuses on securing an in-depth understanding of the CRPD and analysing development from a CRPD perspective. (7 days + 3)
- module 2** further develops capacities to take action through different key policy areas including legal harmonisation, budgeting, data, to the use of UN monitoring mechanisms. The purpose is to create evidence for policy change. A high-level policy exchange platform is also offered. (7 days + 3)

**Through assignments** between both modules, participants:

- (1) work with peers at country level to analyse the human rights and development context in their country,
- (2) individually develop a draft policy brief analyzing a development issue, from a CRPD perspective.

**assignments** (6 months)

**Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative is the most advanced example we know of inclusive training on the CRPD, respecting diversity through differentiated approaches to accommodate different learning styles. Adequate attention to everyone leads to successful learning outcomes.**

**Vladimir Cuk**  
IDA Executive Director

**The Bridge CRPD-SDGs training is a critical initiative seeking to ensure an effective, skilled and expert cohort of persons with disabilities are engaged in national and regional efforts to implement the SDGs and realise the CRPD.**

**Dominic Haslam**  
IDDC Chair

**For further information:**  
[bridge\\_platform@ida-secretariat.org](mailto:bridge_platform@ida-secretariat.org)  
[bit.ly/BridgeCRPD-SDGs](http://bit.ly/BridgeCRPD-SDGs)

**International Disability Alliance**  
**IDDC** International Disability and Development Consortium

Design: Graphic Studio - Nov. 2019

Figure 5: Bridge flyer page 2

**Nothing about us  
without us**  
Towards  
**Leaving no one behind!**

### ● Our aim

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) sets obligations to ensure the effective realization of all human rights for all persons with disabilities. However, its implications are often not equally addressed for the diversity of persons with disabilities.

The 'Nothing about us without us' motto – which is reflected throughout the CRPD and central to the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative – demands that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are fully involved in decisions that concern them at all levels.

The need for well-resourced and well-informed OPDs (Organizations of Persons with Disabilities) is therefore rising.

The main aim of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative is to invest in global and regional OPDs to support capacity building of their national members to advocate for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for all persons with disabilities in line with the CRPD.



### ● Our history

In 2015, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) developed the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative.

It is a unique inclusive capacity development initiative designed to respond to the growing demand to equip persons with disabilities and OPDs to capitalize on the 2030 Agenda.

It also supports them to engage adequately with governments and other actors to shape policies and programs to be compliant with the CRPD.

### ● Our principles

- ➤ By, for and with persons with disabilities
- ➤ Working cross-disability, with attention to intersectionality and underrepresented groups
- ➤ Inclusive, enabling environment & methodology
  - Valuing participants' expertise
- ➤ Collaborative quality assurance
- ➤ Peer accountability and learning
- ➤ Not for profit and open source material



### ● Differentiated trajectories

The Initiative proposes a trajectory for trainees who wish to go further that may comprise:

- ➤ Training and advisory opportunities
  - Practical exposure to UN mechanisms
- ➤ A Training of Trainers
- ➤ Additional modules as co-facilitators or participants in other cycles
- ➤ Fellowship opportunities
- ➤ Mentoring - advocacy, advisory, peer learning at local, national, regional and global levels

### Training of trainers

A critical number of activists with disabilities, from different regions, is also prepared to respond to the increased demand for highly qualified trainers. They are equipped with skills to facilitate CRPD and SDGs related trainings, including Bridge modules.

### Quality criteria and development

Implementing partners work through collaborative approaches to attain optimum quality and learning outcomes. This includes the establishment of task and facilitation teams, under a Partnership Protocol, validated by the Steering Committee.



## **Bridge CRPD-SDGs Training Initiative Flyer : Plain text only**

### ***Logos IDA and IDDC***

### ***Nothing about us without us towards leaving no one behind!***

#### ***Our aim***

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- Working cross-disability, with attention to intersectionality and underrepresented groups
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**“The Bridge CRPD-SDGs training is a critical initiative seeking to ensure an effective, skilled and expert cohort of persons with disabilities are engaged in national and regional efforts to implement the SDGs and realise the CRPD.”** Dominic Haslam, IDDC Chair

**Contact us**

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