

**Draft 2021 Financing for Sustainable Development Report**

Persons with disabilities were strongly included in the [draft 2021 Financing for Sustainable Development Report](https://developmentfinance.un.org/2021-financing-sustainable-development-report-preparatory-materials). Disability and persons with disabilities are referenced eight times throughout the report most strongly in the area of risk-informed sustainable finance and development and disability data. Quite positively, disability is included in the introduction section, highlighting the importance of investing in people, including persons with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities were included most often throughout the section on risk-informed sustainable finance and development, in the areas of:

* Risk and implications for the SDGs and **disability** disaggregated analysis;
* Gaps in inclusive risk governance, such as **persons with disabilities** being underrepresented in decision-making processes at all levels;
* Critical gaps in the availability, quality, comparability, and dissemination of sex, age, and **disability** disaggregated data (SADDD) also act as a barrier to understanding the differential impacts of hazards;
* Investing in the SDGs to enhance resilience, such as **disability**, which is identified as a determinant of householdvulnerability in assessments of an extremely diverse set of risks; and
* The underfunded investments in climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, including in the adaptive capacity of vulnerable populations, including women, girls, and **persons with disabilities**.

Persons with disabilities were also referenced in the science, technology, innovation and capacity building section with the description of the Inclusive digital economy scorecard. Finally, in the data, monitoring and follow-up section, the need for high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable an disaggregated by disability was reiterated as urgent due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic and social fallout.

Despite the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the report as outlined above, there are areas which also would be critical to include persons with disabilities, which are discussed below.

**Supplementary analysis on sections of the report that do not explicitly mention disability**

**Overview**

**All** chapters of the report have critical importance for the enjoyment of human rights and social justice by persons with disabilities. A [recent briefing](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/financing-covid19-beyond) by the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities for Sustainable Development illustrates the importance of applying an intersectional disability lens to diverse areas of economic policymaking. The below analysis gives a few examples of points in the report where it would have been relevant to unpack how different policy options affect governments’ ability to tackle disability-based inequalities. The analysis is illustrative, not exhaustive.

**Chapter III.A**

**Section 2**

It is vital that fiscal policies for responding to the pandemic take into account the structural inequalities facing persons with disabilities, especially those most marginalised due to severe impairments or intersecting discrimination. Disability rights-compliant social protection is one crucial consideration here.[[1]](#footnote-1) In addition, it is critical to apply a disability lens in all decisions on which sectors of activity to fund and to support, and in decisions on how services are to be financed (our recent briefing set these arguments out in the context of international cooperation [[section 2.3](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx)], and similar considerations also apply at the domestic policy level).

**Sections 5 and 6**

When public budgets and public services are drained by tax dodging, marginalised people such as persons with disabilities are likely to bear the heaviest burden. Creation of a universal, intergovernmental process at the UN, which will comprehensively address harmful tax competition, tax avoidance, tax abuse by multinational corporations and other illicit financial flows, would therefore have particular importance for persons with disabilities (reference: [briefing section 2.4.2](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx)).

**Chapter III.B**

Both (i) public procurement policies and (ii) the regulation of private sector companies are essential policy areas for upholding rights and social justice for persons with disabilities. It is crucial that both areas consider disability explicitly (reference: [briefing sections 3.2 and 3.3](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx)).

**Chapter III.C**

International public finance – particularly Official Development Assistance (ODA) – has a fundamentally important role to play in resourcing human rights and socially just policies for persons with disabilities through the pandemic and beyond. Providing a sufficient volume of ODA – meeting or exceeding the UN target to provide 0.7% of Gross National Income in Official Development Assistance – is vital (reference: [briefing section 2.4.4](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx)). The **way** that such ODA is spent also has profound implications from the perspective of tackling disability-based inequalities. Key considerations include:

* The importance of avoiding economic policy conditionalities, which are often associated with austerity, whose consequences for persons with disabilities are particularly severe (reference: [briefing section 2.4.4](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx));
* The importance of grant- rather than loan-based finance (reference: [briefing section 2.3](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx));
* The need to consider the structural inequalities facing persons with disabilities when making decisions on sectoral allocations, and on the funding model for social services (reference: [briefing section 2.3](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx));
* The criticality of aligning all ODA spending with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and reporting on such alignment using the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development’s disability policy marker (reference: [briefing sections 2.2 and 3.1](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx))

Linked to all these factors, a growing body of analysis points to the potential risks and opportunity costs for persons with disabilities when ODA is used for blended finance through so-called private sector instruments. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recently found that “When considering official development assistance investment in private sector instruments, States should conduct human rights impact assessments to explore the potential implications for the rights of persons with disabilities.”[[2]](#footnote-2) **We are concerned that, while the draft report devotes considerable attention to blended finance, it does not discuss in sufficient detail the potential implications of private sector instruments for the enjoyment of human rights by the most marginalised people, including persons with disabilities** (reference: [briefing section 2.3](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx)).

**Chapter III.D**

Wider civil society concerns about the grave risks that the negotiation, implementation and enforcement of trade and investment agreements can pose for human rights and health equalities – particularly in the context of the pandemic – are especially relevant for persons with disabilities (reference: [briefing section 2.4.6](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx)).

**Chapter III.E**

Tackling the current debt crisis – including through introduction of a sovereign debt workout mechanism at the UN – is vital for creating fiscal space to uphold human rights and social justice for persons with disabilities in the Global South (reference: [briefing section 2.4.1](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx)).

**Chapter III.F**

A new allocation of Special Drawing Rights has a critical role to play in ensuring that governments have sufficient resources, in suitable currency, to resource the enjoyment of rights and social justice by persons with disabilities through the COVID-19 crisis and beyond (reference: [briefing section 2.4.3](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/financing_rights_and_social_justice_for_persons_with_disabilities_in_the_era_of_covid-19_and_beyond_final.docx)).

1. Côte, 2020, [Disability-inclusive social protection response to COVID-19 crisis](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_742140.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, 2020, A/75/186, [Disability inclusive international cooperation](https://undocs.org/en/A/75/186), p.19 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)