



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



International
Disability
Alliance



GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT **+2 YEARS**

Progress on Implementation of Commitments

2021

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ABBREVIATIONS

CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia
DFID	Department for International Development
EDF	European Disability Forum
EOL	Education Out Loud
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
GDS18	Global Disability Summit 2018
GDS22	Global Disability Summit 2022
GPE	Global Partnership on Education
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overviews
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDA	International Disability Alliance
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems
ILO	International Labour Organization
OPD	Organisations of persons with disabilities
PiN	Persons in Need
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
YPP	Young Professional’s Program

FOREWORD FROM THE IDA

Less than a year from now, we will gather virtually for another Global Disability Summit to be co-hosted by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the International Disability Alliance. It will be an opportunity to review and to celebrate the progress towards the disability inclusive development and humanitarian action as well as to continue imagining a better world where persons with disabilities are meaningfully included in all areas of life.

Today, the world is in the middle of the pandemic that devastated the entire world and had specifically profound negative impact on persons with disabilities. We learned that persons with disabilities are more likely to die from the Covid 19 and are more likely to be significantly affected in accessing or sustaining employment and livelihoods.

Nevertheless, despite the unprecedented challenges posed by the Covid 19 pandemic, it is encouraging to see that many exceptional commitments made in London in 2018 were successfully accomplished. It is also promising to learn that many of the commitments are in the implementation phase as well.

This is exactly what world needs today. Due to pandemic, we learned, the investments, the budgets of development stakeholders are under a lot of pressure – the budgets are increasingly cut or redirected towards Covid 19 response. The world and the disability rights movement need positive signals that the world leaders, the donors and the development stakeholders are committed to stay the course and continue with investment in the rights of persons with disabilities.

Indeed, the time is now to reaffirm and increase our commitment and investment in disability inclusive development and humanitarian action to balance disproportionate impact of the crisis on persons with disabilities. The time is now to do this collectively with organizations of persons with disabilities. The time is now to build forward a better and inclusive society. This pandemic taught us very clearly that the world is interconnected in so many ways, and nobody is safe and included unless we are all safe and included.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Global Disability Summit 2018 (GDS18) was a historical moment for disability inclusion and the rights of persons with disabilities. GDS18 generated an unprecedented level of focus on and commitment to disability-inclusive development. 171 national governments, multilateral agencies, donors, foundations, private sector and civil society organisations made 968 individual commitments, each one intended to strengthen and transform disability inclusion. More than 300 governments and organisations signed the GDS18 Charter for Change, encouraging focused implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

In 2019, the first GDS18 Progress Report identified the positive impact GDS18 commitments were starting to have just one-year after the Summit. Another year on, it is evident that GDS18 is still having a positive impact. Now, 25% of all GDS18 commitments are complete (up from 10% complete in 2019) and the majority (62%) of the remaining GDS18 commitments are still underway; they are reported to remain on-track and are expected to be delivered by the date set. Progress toward achieving the GDS18 commitments is ongoing in each thematic area of focus of the Summit; 40% of the 'humanitarian' commitments are complete along with 37% of the 'Data' commitments.

The examples and case studies in this report provide an indication of the breadth of work around disability inclusion and the rights of persons with disabilities GDS18 helped to galvanise. The United Nations Children's Fund has exceeded its original target of 35 countries implementing disability-inclusive humanitarian actions, by 2019 53 countries had provided humanitarian programmes and activities inclusive of children with disabilities. The Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare has completed training for service providers on psychological first aid and mental health psychosocial support services during emergencies, to ensure effective inclusion of persons with disabilities. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia, Global Affairs Canada and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency have all now formally adopted the voluntary OECD-DAC disability marker. The Ford Foundation's US grant-making is providing support to a Disability Inclusion Fund to promote the voices of persons with disabilities within donor decision-making.

The impact of GDS18 additional to the delivery of commitments made, is also evident. Organisations have readily focused on persons with disabilities in their responses to COVID-19. More organisations appear to have growing confidence around disability, with more organisations reported to now work in a disability inclusive way. Organisations also report high-levels of interest in further strengthening disability inclusion; 76% of survey respondents suggested they would like to attend a second Global Disability Summit or have their results reflected in further global reports.

GDS18 was intended to start a new wave in the disability rights movement. The impact already felt and the likely impact of the delivery of further commitments remains exciting and transformative. Planning for a second Global Disability Summit is already underway. Subject to COVID-19, Norway will follow GDS18 with another Summit in 2022. The International Disability Alliance has organized with national and regional partners a series of consultations designed to inform the next Summit's themes, priorities and preparations; in total, 20

workshops are planned across all regions of the world¹. This report provides a review of progress that will also help inform the next Summit, and identifies areas of potential focus for the next Summit based upon GDS18 commitments. More importantly, by reporting the positive and ongoing impact of GDS18 this report demonstrates what the next Global Disability Summit can achieve. Organisations that made commitments at GDS18 are already acting as disability champions. We hope that governments and organisations already engaged in GDS18 and/ or included in this report, as well as those new to disability inclusion, will be inspired to strengthen their resolve around disability inclusion and, when the time comes, join us at the next Summit to build on GDS18's successes.

¹ International Disability Alliance et al, The GDS 2022 – Oslo: Preparation process. An overview of GDS 2022 civil society consultations (2020)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Global Disability Summit 2018 (GDS18) was a pivotal moment for disability-inclusive development. GDS18 inspired unprecedented engagement in disability inclusion and generated commitments that will help deliver Agenda 2030's vision to 'Leave No One Behind' as well as existing obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

In total, 171 national governments, multilateral agencies, donors, foundations, private sector and civil society organisations made 968 individual commitments around the four central themes of the Summit (ensuring dignity and respect for all, inclusive education, routes to economic empowerment, harnessing technology and innovation), as well as two cross-cutting themes (women and girls with disabilities, conflict and humanitarian contexts), and data disaggregation. Over 320 organisations and governments signed a collective action plan, the Charter for Change². Many of the organisations that made commitments at GDS18 and/ or signed the Charter were comparatively new to disability inclusion, demonstrating the reach of the Summit and the Summit's success in broadening the focus on disability-inclusive development.

In 2019, the first GDS18 Progress Report identified significant progress toward the commitments had been made in the year following GDS18. The Report showed work underway on 74% of commitments, and already completed on 10% of GDS18 commitments. The first GDS18 Progress Report also underscored the broader impact of GDS18; inspiring action to implement the CRPD and driving organisational change to strengthen disability inclusion. In 2019, the Government of Argentina, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families hosted the Disability Summit Argentina, to consolidate the contribution of Latin America to disability-inclusive development.

This report provides a second snapshot of the progress made since the Summit on the commitments made at GDS18. The long-term success of GDS18 will be realised as commitments continue to be delivered and have a positive impact on disability inclusion. Two years on from GDS18, even though the global COVID-19 pandemic has undermined global development and continues to affect persons lives and livelihoods, it's expected that more commitments will have been completed or be closer to completion.

This second Progress Report also comes as planning for the next Global Disability Summit is underway. Norway will host the next Global Disability Summit in 2022 (GDS22), subject to the global pandemic. This review of progress made toward the GDS18 commitments, the resulting impact on persons with disabilities and the areas that require greater focus will strengthen planning for the next Global Disability Summit and help GDS22 reignite the collaborative spirit and energy of GDS18.

² See

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721701/GDS_Charter_for_Change.pdf

To this end, this report includes:






- 1** Results from a self-reported questionnaire designed to track progress toward GDS18 commitments;
- 2** Case studies by selected stakeholders focused on the steps they've taken to deliver their GDS18 commitments;
- 3** Further analysis and consideration of the broader impact of the Summit as well as of progress, thematically.

2. UPDATE ON SELF-REPORTED PROGRESS

2.1. Background

In September 2020, a self-reporting questionnaire was sent out to the 171 stakeholders who had made commitments at GDS18. The web-based survey followed the same format as that used in 2019 for the previous GDS18 Progress Report³, to capture further progress stakeholders have made on their GDS18 commitments. This year, some additional questions were included in the questionnaire: around the types of interventions favoured by organisations as they implement their commitments; how they would like to continue to report on progress (including whether or not they would like to attend GDS22 in Norway); and, actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As in 2019, stakeholders were asked to restate each of their GDS18 commitments by theme, and to rate their progress as either: complete; underway; delayed; not started; or discontinued (see **Table 1**).

Table 1: Ranking criteria for the self-assessment process

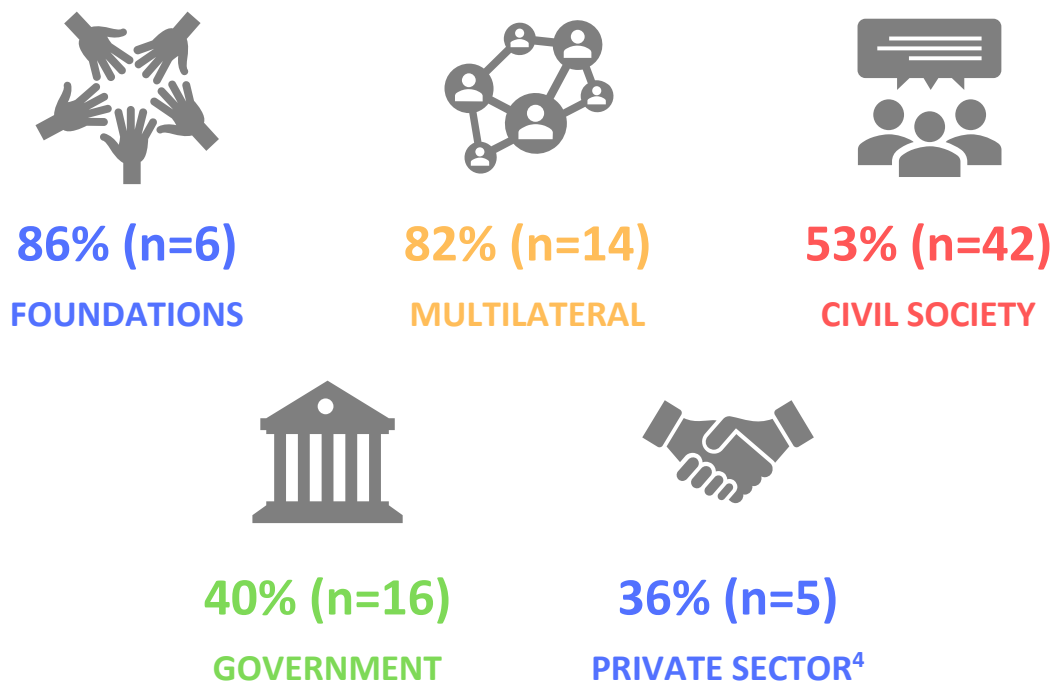
 COMPLETE	The commitment has been completed and evidence is available in the public domain and/ or can be provided by the stakeholder.
 UNDERWAY	The commitment is underway and on-track to be delivered by the date set, and evidence is available in the public domain and/ or can be provided by the stakeholder.
 DELAYED	The commitment is underway but <i>not</i> on-track to be delivered by the date set, and evidence is available in the public domain and/ or can be provided by the stakeholder.
 NOT STARTED	No work has yet started on the commitment although there are intentions to begin.
 DISCONTINUED	No work will be carried out on this commitment.

In total, 97 different organisations completed the questionnaire (57% of the 171 stakeholders who had made commitments at GDS18). This compares well with the first questionnaire conducted in 2019, one year after GDS18. In 2019, 99 different organisations responded to an online questionnaire (58% of the 171 stakeholders who had made commitments at GDS18).

³ Global Disability Summit: One Year On. Accountability Report (2019). Available at: <https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/gds18-one-year-on-report.pdf>

Civil society organisations submitted the highest number of responses. In terms of the number of organisations that had made commitments at GDS18, foundations had the highest response rate followed by multilaterals; this is a slight change to 2019 when multilaterals showed the highest response rate. Overall, all groups continue to show good levels of engagement with this process:

Figure 1 - Response rate by group



In total, 547 individual commitments were reported on in this questionnaire. It means that progress is being reported against 57% of the 968 commitments made at GDS18. Some of the difference between the number of commitments now being reported on and the number of commitments made at GDS18 is because some commitments were completed during the last reporting cycle and not reported on this time around.⁵ It is also the case that GDS18 commitments may have been fulfilled and reported on via different mechanisms, such as through the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities or Universal Periodic Reviews.

⁴ Note that in the category of 'Other' there were 14 responses, including one from a research institution.

⁵ Note: it has not been possible to analyse commitments which are complete *but not reported on* in this survey due to time and resource limitations.

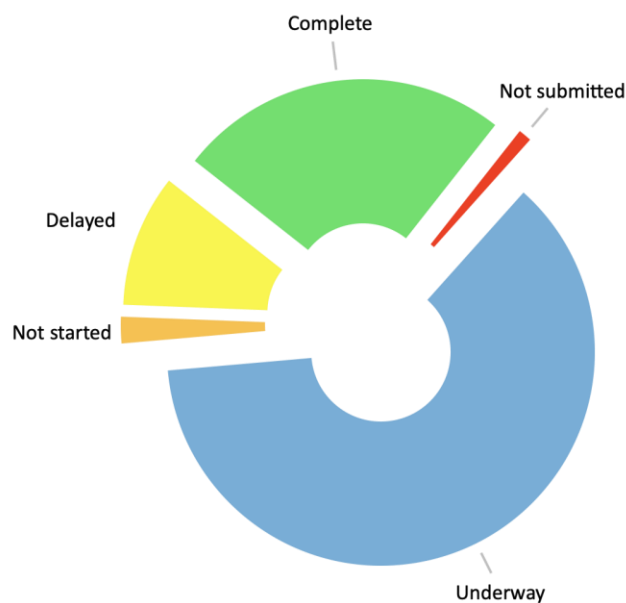
Table 2: Commitments by stakeholder group reported on in 2020

NUMBER AND TYPE OF COMMITMENT MADE									
STAKEHOLDER TYPE	TOTAL	DIGNITY	INC. ED	ECO. EMP.	TECH	WOMEN	HUMANITARIAN	DATA	OTHER
CIVIL SOCIETY	221	46	30	25	21	28	21	30	20
FOUNDATIONS	15	4	4	0	1	3	0	1	2
GOVERNMENT	148	26	20	19	17	14	14	22	16
MULTILATERALS	61	7	9	7	5	7	7	13	6
PRIVATE SECTOR	19	0	5	5	0	2	2	2	3
RESEARCH	4	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
OTHER	79	13	11	11	8	9	11	13	3
TOTAL	547	96	80	68	52	64	55	82	50

2.2. Results

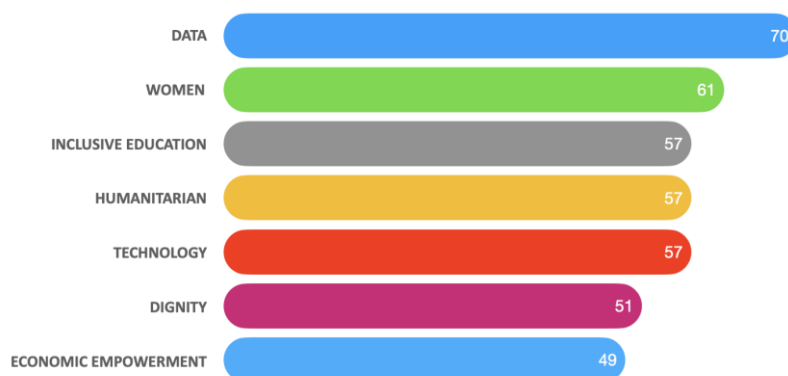
While most of the commitments reported on remain underway (62%), 25% are reported to be complete (see Figure 2). This compares to 10% being reported as complete and 74% as underway in 2019. This finding underscores the positive progress made over the past year around disability inclusion. Only 10% of commitments are reported as delayed and just 2% as not started. Reasons for delays generally include issues around the need to mobilise skills and resources, as well as the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. The remaining 1% is the result of some organisations not submitting a response to this part of the questionnaire.

Figure 2 - Summary of self-reported progress against GDS18 commitments in 2020



In terms of thematic areas, it is commitments made under the theme 'Data' which have been more widely reported on (see Figure 3). Compared with the original number of commitments made at GDS18, 70% of 'Data' commitments are reported on in this survey. This is followed by the theme 'Women and Girls' (61%), with 'Economic Empowerment' being the least reported on (49%).

Figure 3 - Response rate by thematic area



With the exception of the 'Other' category (which is a mix of different focus areas outside of the thematic areas of focus at GDS18), analysis by thematic area shows that there was broad consistency in terms of the progress reported to have been made toward delivering commitments. 'Humanitarian' and 'Data' commitments were more likely to be reported as complete (40% and 37% respectively). Commitments made under the theme of 'Economic Empowerment' had the highest number reported as delayed (13%).

Responses came back from a cross-section of all stakeholder groups but due to the large number of responses overall, we have limited the following section of the report to focus on the commitments made by governments, multilaterals, the private sector and foundations that we anticipate having the most impact at scale:



NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS: PROGRESS AGAINST COMMITMENTS

- The **Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare** completed training for service providers on psychological first aid and mental health psychosocial support services during emergencies, to ensure effective inclusion of persons with disabilities.
- The **Government of Kenya** incorporated Washington Group short set questions into their 2019 national census⁶.

⁶ It is worth noting that this was supported by influencing activities undertaken by United Disabled Persons of Kenya and Bridge alumni representatives



MULTILATERALS: PROGRESS AGAINST COMMITMENTS

- The **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)** report having exceeded their original target of 35 countries implementing disability-inclusive humanitarian actions. This has now become a permanent agenda in UNICEF programming, such that by 2019 53 countries had provided humanitarian programmes and activities inclusive of children with disabilities. (See [Section 3.2](#). for more detailed reflections on UNICEF’s GDS18 commitments.)
- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** have completed (in collaboration with the Washington Group) a new module to be used in Labour Force Surveys to provide information on the labour market situation of people with disabilities⁷.
- The **Inter-American Development Bank** published a sector note on Violence against Women and Girls with Disabilities, in 2019⁸.
- The **World Bank Group’s** Women, Business and the Law project included several questions on legal frameworks for women with disabilities within employment and entrepreneurship. It now has disaggregated data from 176 economies which it is presenting to the Group’s Community on Disability-Inclusive Development. (See [Section 3.3](#). for more detailed reflections on the World Bank Group’s GDS18 commitments.)



DONORS: PROGRESS AGAINST COMMITMENTS

- The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland** updated their Humanitarian Policy in 2019 to emphasize the role and participation of persons with disabilities.
- The **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia (DFAT)**, **Global Affairs Canada** and the **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency** have all now formally adopted the voluntary OECD-DAC disability marker.
- The **UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)** launched the Inclusive Education Initiative in 2019 that is now hosted by the **World Bank**. Funding has been committed to support governments in Ethiopia, Nepal and Rwanda, to build their capacity to deliver comprehensive and cost-effective interventions.



PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOUNDATIONS: PROGRESS AGAINST COMMITMENTS

- The **Ford Foundation’s** US grant-making is seeking to promote the voices of persons with disabilities within donor decision-making and is now providing support to a Disability Inclusion Fund.

⁷ See https://www.ilo.org/stat/Publications/WCMS_646356/lang--en/index.htm?ssSourceSiteId=global

⁸ See https://publications.iadb.org/publications/english/document/Violence_against_Women_and_Girls_with_Disabilities_Latin_America_and_the_Caribbean_en_en.pdf

- **Reed Smith** reported that as a result of improving recruitment practices some 14% of trainee solicitors due to join between 2020 and 2022 have declared a disability (close to the 18% rate of disability in the UK). Reed Smith are also now a member of the Valuable 500 initiative, a business to business scheme designed to leverage the influence of large private sector corporations on local and international markets to be more disability inclusive.
- **Open Society Foundation** has supported several innovative narrative change initiatives, including initiatives which seek to challenge stigma and transform attitudes towards persons with albinism and autism⁹.

As well as reporting on progress against individual commitments, the questionnaire also sought to find out what interventions organisations had adopted since GDS18, as part of their broader disability inclusion work. As Figure 4 highlights, the most widely adopted measure has been consulting with and involving persons with disabilities. In fact, 70% of organisations suggested they have adopted this measure; it was mostly civil society organisations and governments that reported consulting with and involving persons with disabilities. Some 65% of organisations also reported setting up new initiatives which target persons with disabilities and/or organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs); it was mostly civil society organisations and multilaterals that reported undertaking such targeted initiatives.



Figure 4 - Reported steps taken to improve disability inclusion

⁹ See <https://autisticadvocacy.org/2020/04/fighting-discrimination-in-covid-19-treatment/>

Around half of all organisations (52%) reported activities that include making improvements to the accessibility of workplaces and the provision of reasonable accommodations; this is of course a central pre-requisite for transformative rights-based inclusion so while encouraging the percentage reported suggests potential for more attention on this issue in future Summits. The remaining activities including disability inclusion training, the collection and collation of disability disaggregated data, budgeting for inclusion and the development of inclusive policies were all reported on by less than 50% of organisations. The mainstreaming of disability across all existing initiatives was also reported to have been adopted by some organisations.

Beyond these more common measures some organisations reported adopting measures that may have considerable impact:

- The **Philippines National Council on Disability Affairs** has been focusing on more of an intersectional approach with several initiatives aimed specifically at women and girls with disabilities.
- The **Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare** has increased visibility of disability within its National Mid-Term Development Plan¹⁰.
- The **Rwanda National Council of Persons with Disabilities** have initiated a budget tracking system across all public institutions to ensure they can monitor spending on disability inclusion.
- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** is in the process of adapting its institutional set-up and working modalities to meet the requirements of the new UN Disability Inclusion Strategy. This process requires far-reaching changes which the FAO is gradually implementing.
- The **Asian Development Bank** now includes disability within its corporate results framework and has developed disability inclusion markers for its investments.
- **The Government of Canada** has passed new legislation, the Accessible Canada Act in 2019¹¹, which builds on the Canadian Human Rights Act to focus on the prohibition of discrimination based on disability, to increase accessibility, and encourage a culture of inclusion. This has led to the establishment of Canada's Public Service Accessibility Strategy.
- The UK's **CDC Group** has now produced its own guidance on Disability Inclusion to guide the CDC Group's investments and activities.¹²

¹⁰ See https://www.elibrary.imf.org/view/IMF002/26222-9781498324960/26222-9781498324960/26222-9781498324960_A001.xml?rskey=9pheTQ&result=4&redirect=true

¹¹ See <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/accessible-people-disabilities/act-summary.html>

¹² The Guidance will be available within March 2021 on the ESG Topics page <https://toolkit.cdcgroup.com/esg-topics/>

3. CASE STUDIES ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED

In this section, we provide space for organisations to provide more detailed reflections on what progress has been made against their GDS18 commitments. Selected organisations were contacted to develop a self-reported case study that focused on documenting progress as well as the broader impact of the Summit on the organisation and its ability to deliver disability inclusive activities.

3.1. UNICEF

UNICEF works in over 190 countries and territories. Protecting the rights of girls and boys with disabilities is an integral part of UNICEF's programming; disability-inclusion features across all goal areas in UNICEF's 2018-21 Strategic Plan and disability specific indicators or indicators that require disaggregation by disability also feature in UNICEF's Results Framework.

UNICEF's strong focus on disability inclusion was reflected in its engagement at GDS18, where UNICEF announced a set of commitments designed to accelerate global action for the rights of children with disabilities and to build on its ongoing efforts to ensure that no child is left behind. UNICEF has made considerable progress towards the commitments it made at GDS18, for example:

- UNICEF co-chaired the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, which coordinated the development of new IASC Guidelines. Following the launch of the Guidelines in December 2019¹³, UNICEF co-led the establishment of, and now co-chairs (together with IDA and CBM-global), the Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.
- UNICEF also leads the disability work stream of the UK's FCDO UN Humanitarian Single Business Case. UNICEF works with other UN agencies as well as IDA and Humanity & Inclusion to strengthen disability inclusion in Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNOs) and Humanitarian Response Plans. In 2018, no HNOs had Persons in Need (PiN) figures disaggregated by disability; by 2020, 81% of HNOs had PiN figures disaggregated by disability.
- As of 2019, nineteen UNICEF-supported countries¹⁴ had released survey reports with data on children with disabilities, using the UNICEF/Washington Group Module on Child Functioning¹⁵.
- UNICEF worked in 23 countries on social and behaviour change communication and disability, in 2019. Programmes included awareness-raising campaigns on disability inclusion, supporting inclusive education reform, as well as empowering parents of children with disabilities to increase demand for quality disability-inclusive services and changing the way children with disabilities are viewed in their communities.

¹³ Available at: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-task-team-inclusion-persons-disabilities-humanitarian-action/documents/iasc-guidelines>

¹⁴ These are: Belarus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mongolia, Montenegro, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. Surveys are available at: <https://mics.unicef.org/surveys>

¹⁵ The surveys are available here: <https://mics.unicef.org/surveys>.

- Integrating supplies into regular programmes through market shaping and procurement mechanisms, UNICEF has rapidly scaled up provision of assistive devices and products, reaching 138,000 children with disabilities globally¹⁶. This includes 13,722 children with disabilities provided with assistive devices such as hearing aids, walking sticks, wheelchairs and braille equipment.



Credits: The World Bank Group

3.2. The World Bank Group

In line with the World Bank Group’s strategy to develop human capital around the world, their commitments announced at GDS18 aimed to support developing countries to invest more (and more effectively) in persons with disabilities and accessible services.

In two years, their commitments have been adopted by various Practices across the World Bank and influenced the way the Practices engage in disability-inclusive development. Once per quarter, a dedicated group of focal points for each commitment meet to report on progress made through the development of guidance, ‘how-to’ tools, and checklists to support teams in meeting their goals. To further raise awareness of the their GDS18 commitments among staff, a Bank-wide internal webpage has been developed, which serves as a space for information around implementation of the commitments. The amplified conversations around their GDS18 commitments have further accelerated the Bank’s authorizing environment by influencing the explicit addition of disability inclusion in the IDA19 refinancing package as a cross-cutting theme, and in six specific policy commitments under the areas of Jobs and Economic Transformation, Governance Technology, and service delivery in countries impacted by Fragility, Conflict and Violence.

The World Bank Group has made considerable progress towards the commitments it made at GDS18, for example:

- A Disability Inclusion and Accountability Framework has been launched to support the mainstreaming of disability in World Bank activities.¹⁷ Other materials have been

¹⁶ See https://www.unicef.cz/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/UNICEF_Annual_Report_2019.pdf

¹⁷ See <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/437451528442789278/disability-inclusion-and-accountability-framework>

developed to support disability-inclusive education, including: the Inclusive Education Resource Guide¹⁸; equity and inclusion blogs; COVID-19 reports; and, other support materials addressing disability as part of the overall COVID-19 response narrative.

- The Transport Global Practice has continued to increase their disability-inclusive measures and knowledge products. Currently there are several projects in Latin America and the Caribbean that have a disability-inclusion component.
- The World Bank Young Professional's Program (YPP) has worked to make the recruitment process inclusive for staff with different abilities¹⁹. Emphasis has been placed on three key areas: (i) outreach efforts; (ii) recruitment; and, (iii) onboarding. The YPP Management held meetings with potential feeder universities to raise awareness of the YPP and highlight disability-inclusion as a priority area of hire. Several partnerships have been formed with institutions that focus on empowering individuals with disabilities, including Gallaudet University, Mobility International USA, National Federation of the Blind and Career and Disability Magazine. Intentional efforts have also been made to make onboarding programs more inclusive, such as ensuring presentations work with screen readers.
- Internally, to support staff with disabilities, the World Bank now has a Disability Accommodation Fund and a disability affinity group for staff.



Credits: Ghana's National Council on Persons with Disabilities

¹⁸ See <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/798681600707797522/inclusive-education-resource-guide-ensuring-inclusion-and-equity-in-education>

¹⁹ See <https://blogs.worldbank.org/voices/advancing-disability-inclusion-young-professionals-program>

3.3. Ghana's National Council on Persons with Disability

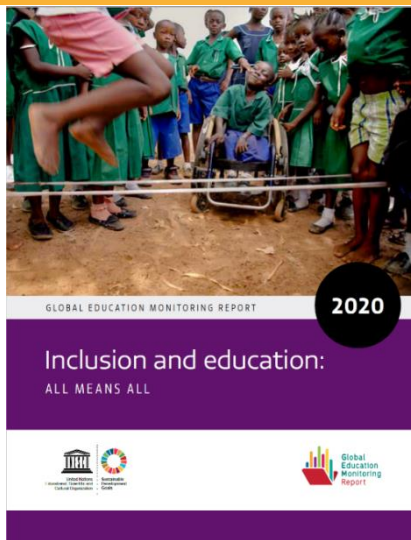
The National Council on Persons with Disability is the Ghana State Agency mandated to coordinate disability matters by monitoring and evaluating legislation, policies and programmes for the purposes of ensuring disability inclusion. The National Council coordinates and monitors work to deliver the Government of Ghana's eight GDS18 commitments; in October 2020, the National Council convened two sessions involving stakeholders from across Ghana to review progress against the Government's GDS18 commitments.

The National Council found that the Government's GDS18 commitments have served to strengthen the understanding of and focus on disability inclusion across Ghana's public sector:

- Awareness of the Governments GDS18 commitments is high; approximately 60% of state Ministries, Departments and Agencies (as well as approximately 70% of organisations of persons with disabilities) are aware of the Government's GDS18 Commitments. The Government's commitments have also been publicly launched to help accelerate their implementation.
- At the national level, State agencies including institutions that render humanitarian support such as the National Disaster Management Organization, the Fire Service and the Police have been sensitised on inclusive humanitarian support actions and now prioritise persons with disabilities when discharging their duties.
- The Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715) is being revised to comply with the CRPD²⁰.
- The Ghana National Household Registry is now using the Washington Group of Questions to enumerate persons with disabilities within the poverty line for the purposes of expanding the Livelihood Empowerment against Poverty programme.
- A National Disability Inclusion Summit was held on 3rd December 2020 that included over 300 participants including from the Presidency, Ministries, Departments, Agencies, organisations of and for persons with disabilities, Federations of Para-sports, Heads of Missions of Embassies in Ghana, academia and the media²¹. The Summit resulted in a communique adopted by all stakeholders that underscored a commitment to disability inclusion.

²⁰ See <https://afri-can.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Ghana.pdf>.

²¹ See <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Ghana-holds-maiden-disability-inclusion-summit-1135043>



Credits: UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

3.4. UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

The UK has made significant progress on disability inclusion through, and since, co-hosting GDS18. The UK's progress has been made possible through the continued advice of persons with disabilities, and the high level commitment and enthusiasm of staff within the former Department for International Development (DFID), and now the FCDO. FCDO's work on disability inclusion is seen by the FCDO as a long-term process with much still to learn and deliver. However, of the 17 commitments the UK made at GDS18 all but four have been completed and the remainder are underway:

- DFID published its first ever Disability Inclusion Strategy on 3 December 2018²²; it is an ambitious five-year strategy aiming to embed disability inclusion across the organisation. The strategy focuses on four strategic pillars and three cross-cutting areas, and sets out minimum standards for all business units to strive towards. To ensure accountability, a delivery plan including a timeline was published. In the two years since the strategy was published, circumstances both globally and domestically have created a challenging backdrop for implementation. Despite these challenges, significant progress against the strategy has been achieved, evidenced in the recently published FCDO Progress Paper on Disability Inclusion²³.
- The UK has also launched and funded both disability-specific and mainstream development programmes to support persons with disabilities. This includes the flagship Disability Inclusive Development programme, a six-year cutting edge innovation and scale-up programme which includes the Programme for Evidence to Inform Disability Action research programme.

²² DFID, DFID's Strategy for Disability Inclusive Development 2018-23 (2018). See

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/760997/Disability-Inclusion-Strategy.pdf

²³ FCDO, FCDO's disability update: Progress against DFID's strategy for Disability Inclusive Development (2020). See

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/934618/Progress_Paper_of_the_Disability_Inclusion_Strategy_November_2020.pdf

- UK Aid Connect disability programmes are working in Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Bangladesh to improve access to private sector employment for persons with disabilities, including through establishing and strengthening Business and Disability Networks.
- The new Inclusive Education Initiative was launched in 2019 with the UK funding the three-year programme alongside the Government of Norway²⁴. In addition, the UK's FCDO has continued to work with partners including the Global Partnership on Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait to ensure children with disabilities are not left behind. The UK has also funded the Global Education Monitoring Report on *Inclusion & Education: All means All*, a seminal report which was published in 2020 and has attracted global attention from policy makers and practitioners²⁵.
- As well as launching with others the ATscale Global Partnership, FCDO has scaled up its AT2030 programme. There have been a number of early successes, including the launch of an Assistive Technology Impact Fund to take proven assistive technology models to scale.
- Since 2014 the UK has contributed £21m to the UN Trust Fund on Violence against Women and Girls, including increased funding as part of the UK's GDS18 commitments. In September 2020, an additional £1m of funding was announced for the Trust Fund's COVID-19 special window.

Two years on from GDS18, the UK's ambition for disability inclusion remains high. The creation of FCDO is an opportunity for the UK to further deliver on its commitment to this agenda and amplify its international voice on the issue, working with even more OPDs and partners across a more extensive country network. Inclusion is central to the work of FCDO, and the Department is committed to supporting a long term movement for change on disability inclusion, in keeping with the shift envisaged by the CRPD. FCDO will refresh the Disability Inclusion Strategy for the new Department; FCDO is also contributing to the forthcoming 'UK National Strategy for Disabled People'.



Credit: European Disability Forum (EDF)

3.5. European Disability Forum case study

The European Disability Forum (EDF) is an independent non-governmental organization representing the interests of 100 million Europeans with disabilities by bringing together

²⁴ See http://iati.fcdo.gov.uk/iati_documents/45061739.odt

²⁵ See <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373718>.

representative OPDs from across Europe. EDF made several commitments at GDS18 against which EDF has made clear progress. In particular, EDF has:

- Produced a Human Rights Report on the issue of equality and non-discrimination designed to explore the European Union's (EU) and its Member States adherence to the CRPD²⁶.
- Helped to shape the European Accessibility Act 2019 that is designed to increase the number of products and services that are accessible to persons with disabilities²⁷.
- Provided thought leadership on the opportunities and risks for persons with disabilities from Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies through a 2018 event²⁸ and subsequent report²⁹.
- Strengthened the understanding of its members around disaggregated disability data, equipping them for national advocacy.
- Helped to strengthen disability inclusion efforts of EU agencies and institutions, including by developing with the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations a Guidance Note for EU-funded humanitarian aid operations³⁰.

GDS18 further helped EDF build a momentum and focus that exceeds its GDS18 commitments. Since GDS18 EDF has focused on Article 32 of the CRPD, working to strengthen the EU's contribution and focus on disability inclusive development through the EU's policies, programmes and global cooperation agreements as well as by supporting engagement of OPDs in international cooperation systems and processes. EDF has conducted a series of workshops, produced a Guidance Note and collated good practices to help OPDs build their understanding of international cooperation.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily halted EDF's work to engage OPDs from the global south, EDF plans to continue its work in advance of the next Global Disability Summit. EDF's goal is to help strengthen the EU's focus on disability inclusion to a point where the EU is a leading voice at the next Summit and a strong actor in the sector through: the EU Disability Strategy 2020 – 2030; strategies, policies and programmes that reflect the CRPD; inclusion of OPDs in the EU's country delegations and in inter-regional cooperation (e.g. EU-Africa and EU-ASEAN).

²⁶ See <https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/european-human-rights-report-2/>

²⁷ <https://www.accessibletourism.org/?i=enat.en.news.2131>

²⁸ See <https://www.edf-feph.org/newsroom-news-edf-and-google-hold-event-european-parliament-artificial-intelligence-accessibility-0/>.

²⁹ See <https://g3ict.org/index.php/actions/assetCount/download?id=YJ4HcnpwOV9VhqLPel%402fML2YZrMPKn44G8eLdWoZd0%3D>

³⁰ See https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf

4. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The positive impact of GDS18 continues to be felt, two years after the Summit. As this report shows, 25% of all GDS18 commitments are now complete – up from 10% complete in 2019. The commitments delivered provide systemic change (including, new legislation) as well as entirely new initiatives that promise transformative change for persons with disabilities (for example, by significantly improving access to high quality assistive technologies). A majority (62%) of the remaining GDS18 commitments are still underway; they are reported to remain on-track and are expected to be delivered by the date set.

Progress toward achieving the GDS18 commitments is ongoing in each thematic area of focus. In total, 37% of the ‘Data’ commitments are complete, as well as 40% of the ‘humanitarian’ commitments and around a quarter of the commitments focused on ‘dignity and respect for all’, ‘economic empowerment’ and ‘women and girls with disabilities’. The potential impact of the GDS18 commitments already delivered and in progress across the Summit’s thematic areas of focus remains exciting and highly significant.

The global pandemic has impacted the delivery of some GDS18 commitments. COVID-19 is one reason why 10% of the GDS18 commitments are delayed and work to deliver 2% of them has not been started; organisations have found their resources stretched by the pandemic and/ or they’ve been impacted by restrictions designed to restrict the spread of COVID-19. Yet COVID-19 has also demonstrated an ongoing focus on disability inclusion of many organisations that made commitments at GDS18; more than 90% of organisations have worked to address COVID-19’s impact on persons with disabilities. Organisations have undertaken situational analyses focused on persons with disabilities, funded and delivered interventions designed to protect the rights of persons with disabilities during this health crisis, and included persons with disabilities in COVID-19 response teams and/ or planning groups.

The impact of GDS18 additional to the delivery of commitments made, is also evident. Compared to before GDS18, more organisations that were present at the Summit perceive their work to now be inclusive of persons with disabilities. Organisations appear to have growing confidence around disability inclusion. Organisations also report high-levels of interest in further strengthening disability inclusion; most suggested they would like to attend a second Global Disability Summit.

Planning for the next Global Disability Summit is already underway. Norway will host the next Global Disability Summit in 2022, subject to the global pandemic. This report helps to highlight some of the issues the next Summit could focus attention on (underscoring and building upon the findings emerging from the consultations organised by IDA with national and regional partners³¹); for example, new thematic areas such as inclusive health, the intersection of climate change and disability inclusion, as well as recovery following COVID-19. Clear gaps also remain in some of the thematic areas that formed the focus of GDS18:

³¹ International Disability Alliance et al, The GDS 2022 – Oslo: Preparation process. An overview of GDS 2022 civil society consultations (2020)

- Few commitments focused on **inclusive education** address component areas, such as pre- and in-service teacher training. There also remains a comparative lack of focus on early years provision and in-class support structures/mechanisms.
- For **technology and innovation**, it remains necessary to roll out a wider range of data collection tools to capture usage, breakage and repair of assistive technology. It also remains important to increase the number of health professionals able to deliver assistive technology, as well as to strengthen the agency of persons with disabilities around assistive technologies.
- For **women and girls with disabilities**, social norms continue to have the greatest hold on the status quo, it is here where high levels of continuous commitments are most needed to respond in ways that guarantee transformational change.
- In **humanitarian** response, concerns remain around translating guidance into action, producing evidence regarding the cost of inclusion in humanitarian action and rolling out a wider range of data collection tools. More focus is also needed on promoting opportunities for including persons with disabilities in decision making as well as driving sustained, organisational change.
- Documenting disability prevalence within different surveys and research pieces will increase visibility, but strengthening commitments focused on **'data'** requires greater commitment to support research around barriers, led-by and including persons with disabilities, as well as commitments to increase the analysis and use of disability disaggregated data within programming.

Further issues exist that the next Summit could help to address, the examples above serve to underscore that disability inclusion is a long-term goal. While no-one would claim that GDS18 achieved disability inclusion, it is evident that GDS18 galvanised a level of attention on and commitment to disability inclusion that has and is continuing to generate lasting change for persons with disabilities. The strong foundations laid by GDS18 also set an exciting precedent for the next Global Disability Summit.

APPENDIX 1:

FURTHER ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS TOWARD GDS18 COMMITMENTS

The self-reporting questionnaire enabled further analysis of progress toward the GDS18 commitments and their impact, than was included in [Section 2](#). This section presents additional analysis of the questionnaire responses submitted by organisations that made commitments at GDS18.

1. Organisational level progress

Organisations were given the opportunity to rate the work of their organisation for disability inclusion, since making commitments at GDS18. Of the 94 organisations that responded to this question, the majority (63%) perceived their work to be either ‘really quite’ or ‘fully inclusive’ (see Figure 5). This marks a steady increase from pre-Summit, suggesting a growing confidence around disability inclusion among organisations that made commitments at GDS18. In 2019, 59% (n.54) of organisations perceived their organisation’s work to be ‘really quite’ or ‘fully inclusive’.

Figure 5 - How organisations rated themselves on disability inclusion in 2020



2. Responses to COVID-19

Given the wide-reaching impact of the COVID-19 global pandemic, organisations were given the opportunity to share any measure they have taken to address COVID-19's impact on persons with disabilities. Overall, 91% of organisations reported putting some measures in place. In summary, and in order of popularity, six common areas of response were reported:

- **Rapid situational analyses:** The **Asian Development Bank** undertook a rapid assessment of COVID-19's impact on older persons and responses in selected countries³². **UNHCR** has been monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities through a Global Protection Monitoring platform.
- **Pivoting funds toward initiatives that are inclusive of persons with disabilities:** The **UK FCDO's** flagship Disability Inclusive Development Programme adapted to produce evidence about effective ways of ensuring persons with disabilities are not left out of humanitarian and health responses³³. The **GPE** opened an accelerated funding window to help countries mitigate the effects of school closures and COVID-19 on the most vulnerable, and in their recovery efforts when schools reopen³⁴. The **Ford Foundation's** Disability Inclusion Fund included a US\$200,000 emergency response to COVID-19 and support to US disability groups, while other grant making sought to ensure that disability was included in response funds.
- **Disseminating accessible information on COVID-19 and behaviour change messaging:** The **Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare** ensured COVID-19 precautionary measures were translated in accessible formats for the visually impaired. Sign language interpreters were hired and assigned to a television station to communicate relevant information to speech and hearing impaired persons. Audio files and videos were made to sensitize persons with disabilities about the pandemic. Social workers were also encouraged to visit shelters of persons with disabilities to counsel them, identify gaps and help deliver appropriate interventions. The **Rwanda National Council of Persons with Disabilities** also disseminated information on COVID-19 in accessible formats
- **Providing cash transfers and social assistance:** The **Kenyan Ministry of Labour and Social Protection** expanded its cash transfer programme to persons with disabilities, specifically

³² See <https://www.adb.org/publications/msmes-informal-sector-mongolia-covid-19-impacts>

³³ See <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/fcdo-disability-update-progress-against-dfid-s-strategy-disability-inclusive>

³⁴ See <https://www.globalpartnership.org/covid19?location=initial-view>

FCDO disability update

Progress against DFID's strategy for Disability Inclusive Development



A man on a deaf awareness march in Kisumu, Kenya. Jeffrey DeKock/ICCS.

November 2020

Credit: UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

to an additional 33,000 households that were adversely affected by COVID-19³⁵. The **Rwanda National Council of Persons with Disabilities** provided hygienic materials, food stuff and all materials needed during the lockdown.

- **Directly supporting OPDs in their advocacy efforts: Open Society Foundation** supported advocacy by OPDs to equalize access to emergency care. The resulting advocacy focused on developing model protocols, due process protections, and individualized assessments that providers and others should adopt to prevent disability bias and to ensure that the needs of persons with disabilities, care givers and service providers are addressed in COVID-19 legislative relief packages³⁶. The resulting advocacy also focused on funding to recruit and train additional workers supporting persons with disabilities, without taking away persons with disabilities' agency and decision making. The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland** took up this issue in their speeches; Finland has focused on demanding disability inclusion, accessibility, participation and non-discrimination from all COVID-19 related funding.
- **Including persons with disabilities in COVID-19 response teams and/ or planning groups:** The **Ugandan Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development** included OPDs in district-level COVID-19 task forces. The **Rwanda National Council of Persons with Disabilities** ensured representatives of persons with disabilities were members of a Task Force established by the Government to ensure inclusive COVID-19 responses.

3. Staying accountable

This year, organisations were also given the chance to comment on how they would like to remain accountable for progress against their commitments. Organisations were invited to say whether they would like to account for progress through an annual reporting process culminating in this annual global report; through attendance at GDS22 in Norway where organisations would be invited to provide an update; or none of these options. In total, 76% of the 97 organisations responding to the questionnaire suggested they would like to attend another Summit or have their results reflected in a global report. Of these, 58% suggested they would like to attend GDS22; governments, civil society organisations and multilaterals showed particular interest in attending GDS22. These findings suggest a promising level of interest both in regard to remaining accountable for disability inclusive commitments and further promoting inclusive development.

4. Thematic analysis

Here we provide an overview of progress made by stakeholders under each of the thematic areas of focus at GDS18: dignity and respect for all; inclusive education; routes to economic empowerment; harnessing technology and innovation; women and girls with disabilities; conflict and humanitarian contexts; and data disaggregation.

³⁵ <https://www.socialprotection.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/CS-Speech-Launch-of-UK-Digital-Cash-Transfer-Program.pdf>

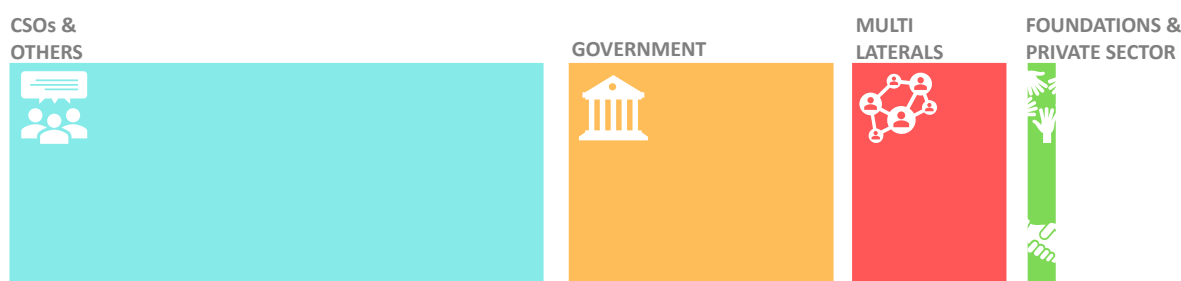
³⁶ See <https://www.centerforpublicrep.org/covid-19-medical-rationing/> and <https://communicationfirst.org/covid-19/covid-19-guidance/>.

4.1. Dignity and respect for all

This cross-cutting theme underpins the CRPD; it was one of the main drivers for persons with disabilities to advocate for the CRPD. In a human rights-based approach to disability inclusion, attitudes are often cited as the most significant barrier preventing inclusion. Institutional and environmental barriers are much less likely if attitudinal barriers don't exist.

In total, 188 commitments were made around 'dignity and respect for all' at GDS18 representing 19.4% of all GDS18 commitments. For this Progress Report, 96 of the 188 commitments were reported on. Twenty-six commitments were reported on by governments (of which, five are commitments made by donors), compared with 46 commitments reported on by civil society. Seven commitments were reported on by multilaterals and four by foundations, with none reported on by the private sector.

Figure 6 - Dignity and respect for all commitments reported on by stakeholders

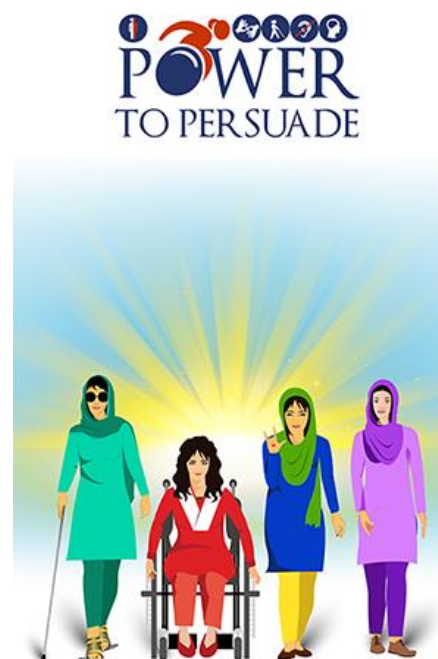


In total, 26% of the 96 reported commitments are reported as complete, 63% as underway, 10% delayed and 1% as not yet started.

From among government stakeholders, a diverse range of actions have been reported. They include: policy reviews; anti-discrimination laws; protocol ratifications; public awareness raising; funding for disability secretariats/networks; country specific disability inclusion/mainstreaming projects; Community Based Rehabilitation programmes; empowering OPDs; and, deinstitutionalisation. Multilaterals have focused on developing organisational strategies; conducting research, including collecting disaggregated data using Washington Group questions; and partnering with OPDs. Foundations report increasing the representation and voice of persons with disabilities on decision-making bodies and in the setting of grant-making priorities; funding stigma-challenging activities; working with OPDs; and funding work to implement the CRPD.



Credit: British Council



Credit: International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)

KEY PROGRESS:

- The **British Council** reports mainstreaming disability within its global Active Citizens programme which, in its 10 year anniversary, recognised the contribution of OPDs partnering the British Council in the UK, Ukraine, Uganda, Poland and Pakistan³⁷. The British Council also reports running a social media campaign during the global pandemic to highlight actions in communities tackling the impact of COVID-19, including around mental health in Egypt and the UK as well as around chronic health outreach support in Bangladesh³⁸.
- **Global Affairs Canada**'s recent Feminist Approach - Innovation and Effectiveness Guidance Note underscores its ambitious commitments made to advance disability-inclusive development and humanitarian action by identifying opportunities to analyse and eliminate systemic discrimination on the basis of intersecting identities such as disability, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion.³⁹
- The **International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)** partnered with the **Pacific Disability Forum** in 2019 to implement its *Power to Persuade: Empowering Women with Disabilities to Influence Public Policy*⁴⁰. Recognizing that Pacific women with disabilities face unique challenges in the context of COVID-19, IFES is leveraging this initial programming to form a larger regional network to advocate for gender- and disability-

³⁷ See https://active-citizens.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/ac10_bro_v3_web_1.pdf

³⁸ See <https://www.facebook.com/activecitizens>

³⁹ Available at: https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/priorities-priorites/fiap_ie-paif_ie.aspx?lang=eng

⁴⁰ See <https://www.ifes.org/news/online-training-launched-engage-pakistani-women-disabilities-public-policy-reform>

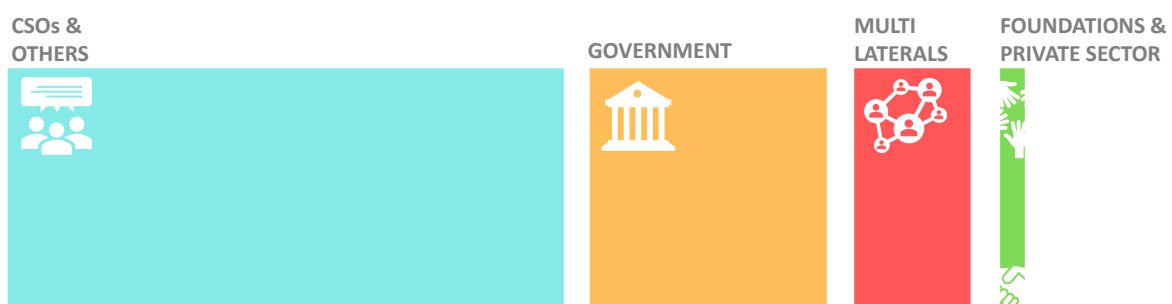
inclusive participation in COVID-19 crisis management and recovery. As part of this initiative, Power to Persuade alumni and new participants across the region developed a COVID-19 crisis and recovery-responsive policy platform and are utilizing the Power to Persuade curriculum to design and implement advocacy initiatives.

- The **Kenyan Ministry of Labour and Social Protection** has developed an Awareness Creation Booklet in collaboration with OPDs (and other stakeholders); the Booklet has been distributed among Ministry Officers working in devolved units to create greater awareness on disability and ensure the enforcement of existing policies and legislation.
- In **Uganda**, the Persons with Disabilities Act 2020 has entered into force with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development now developing regulations to the Act.
- The **Government of Zambia** repealed the Mental Health Act (1949), replacing it with the Mental Health Act No.6 (2019)⁴¹. This new Act prohibits discrimination, degrading treatment and use of derogatory names against a person with mental health disabilities.
- The **Private Infrastructure Development Group** has embedded questions and prompts into ex-ante impact screening tools to identify areas where project design and/or due diligence might enhance outcomes for persons with disabilities.

4.2. Inclusive education

In total, 141 commitments were made around ‘inclusive education’ at GDS18 representing 15% of all GDS18 commitments. For this Progress Report, 80 of the 141 commitments were reported on. All stakeholder groups reported on progress toward commitments they’d made. Twenty of the commitments were reported on by governments (of which, six are commitments made by donors), compared with 29 commitments reported on by civil society. Nine commitments were reported on by multilaterals and 10 reported on by the private sector, foundations, and research institutes combined.

Figure 7 - Inclusive education commitments reported on by stakeholders



⁴¹ See

<http://www.parliament.gov.zm/sites/default/files/documents/acts/The%20Mental%20Health%20Act%20No.%206%20of%20202019.pdf>

In total, 17.5% of the 80 reported commitments are reported as complete, 72.5% are underway and 10% delayed.

Ten commitments reported on by governments reference the adoption, promotion, financing and/or implementation of inclusive education strategies or policies. Of these ten commitments, two are now reported as being complete (in Mozambique and Rwanda). The remaining commitments are reported as being underway with the assumption that they will be achieved within the planned timeframe. Only the **Government of Zambia** report their plans as delayed. The main theme for commitments reported on by multilaterals is supporting implementation of inclusive education sector plans and policies.

Looking ahead to the next Global Disability Summit, there remains gaps in commitments focused on early years provision and in-class support structures/mechanisms as part of inclusive education measures. While the majority of commitments reported on focus at the policy level, only some focus on component areas such as pre- and in-service teacher training indicating another area of potential focus for future commitments.



Credit (from left to right): Global Partnership For Education (GPE) | United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) | UNICEF

KEY PROGRESS:

- The **Government of Kenya** have ring-fenced and allocated specific funds to resource equipment, infrastructure and teacher training to support inclusive education, with the Ministry of Education and the National Treasury developing a ‘Marshall Plan’ to support learners with disabilities.
- The **Government of Uganda** are upgrading inclusive education teacher training from being a module under Professional Education Studies to an independent and examinable subject within teacher training curricula.
- The **GPE** undertook a review of countries with GPE grants in 2020 and found almost half of all active projects included activities relating to disability inclusion⁴². The GPE’s Education Out Loud (EOL) launched four calls for proposals between August 2019 and July 2020⁴³.

⁴² See <https://www.globalpartnership.org/sites/default/files/document/file/2020-05-review-of-design-and-implementation-experiences-of-gpe-variable-part-financing.pdf>

⁴³ See <https://educationoutloud.org/>

Inclusive education is an integral part of the theory of change for EOL and has been highlighted as an eligible area of focus in all the calls for proposals.

- The **Inter-American Development Bank** has published a sector note on Disability and Education which was disseminated in April 2019⁴⁴.
- The **World Bank Group** have made progress towards ensuring all World Bank financed programmes in education are disability inclusive with production of a Guidance Note and Criteria for Disability Inclusive Investment Project Financing in Education⁴⁵.
- The **United Nations Population Fund** are developing Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) Guides with disability components⁴⁶. A number of projects and initiatives are now underway with Technical and Programmatic Guidance for out-of-school CSE provision soon to be launched, meeting the needs of specific marginalised young people with a range of different impairments.
- **Cisco** has assisted 50,000 students with self-declared disabilities on its Networking Academy courses, far exceeding its original target of 10,000 students.
- **Open Society Foundation** is currently partnering with the Inclusive Education Initiative to support civil society and government authorities in Nepal to implement inclusive education.
- **UNICEF** provided technical support to the Accessible Digital Textbooks for All Initiative⁴⁷; the Initiative allows children with disabilities to access the curriculum through innovations in digital technology.

4.3. Routes to economic empowerment

In total, 139 commitments were made around ‘economic empowerment’ at GDS18 representing 14.5% of all GDS18 commitments. For this Progress Report, 68 of the 139 commitments were reported on. All stakeholder groups reported on progress toward commitments they’d made. Nineteen of the commitments were reported on by governments (of which, two are commitments made by donors), compared with 25 commitments reported on by civil society. Seven commitments were reported on by multilaterals and 17 reported on by the private sector, foundations, and research institutes combined.

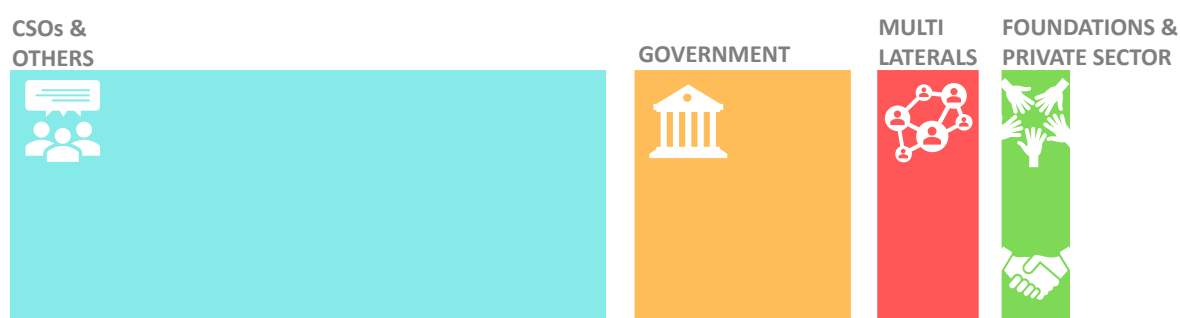
⁴⁴ Education for All: Advancing Disability Inclusion in Latin America and the Caribbean (2019). See <http://dx.doi.org/10.18235/0001673>

⁴⁵ See <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/712711627321467972/pdf/Criteria-for-the-World-Bank-s-Disability-Inclusive-Investment-Project-Financing-IPF-in-Education.pdf>

⁴⁶ See <https://www.unfpa.org/pcm/node/10360>

⁴⁷ See <https://www.accessibletextbooksforall.org/#:~:text=The%20Accessible%20Digital%20Textbooks%20for,Digital%20Textbooks%20for%20All%20initiative.>

Figure 8 - Economic empowerment commitments reported on by stakeholders



In total, 22.2% of the reported commitments are reported as being complete, 63.4% are underway, 13.4% delayed and 1% 'not started'.

Governments are reporting on a diverse range of commitments, including areas such as accessibility standards, social protection and vocational training. Multilaterals focus more on social protection, inclusion in insurance provision and offering livelihoods opportunities. The private sector and foundations have focused reporting on vocational and technical training and improving access to insurance for employees with disabilities.

In 2020, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic appears to have influenced progression of the economic empowerment commitments made at GDS18 (13% of the commitments are now delayed compared with 8% in 2019). Some commitments, especially those reported on by governments also appear to have refocused towards mitigating the impacts of the pandemic on persons with disabilities. Despite these challenges, it is evident that positive progress is being reported.

KEY PROGRESS:

- A new Disability Confidence Toolkit aimed at supporting the employment of persons with disabilities was launched in November 2020, funded by the **UK's FCDO**⁴⁸.
- **ILO** and **UNICEF**, in partnership with **IDA**, have developed draft background documents, training course videos and other materials on disability inclusive social protection with specific reference to COVID-19⁴⁹.
- **Scottish Widows** has established a working group bringing together professional bodies, trade bodies, charities and consumer groups to improve access to insurance cover for persons with disabilities⁵⁰.

⁴⁸ Available at: <https://inclusivefutures.org/disability-confident-employers-toolkit/>

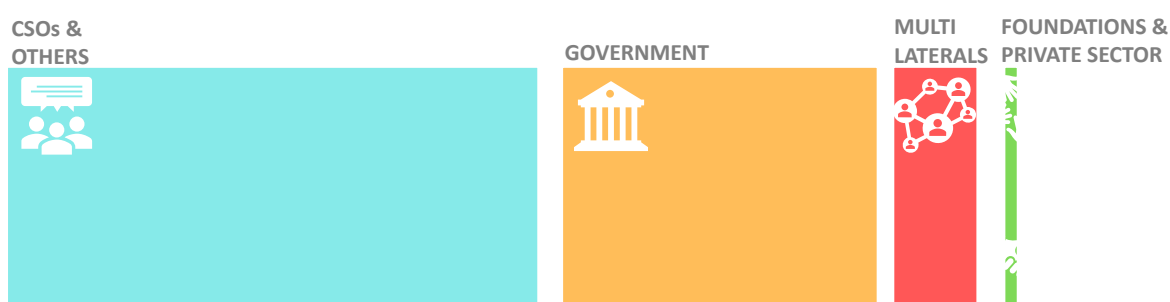
⁴⁹ See https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/disability-and-work/WCMS_742140/lang--en/index.htm

⁵⁰ See <https://adviser.scottishwidows.co.uk/expertise/protection-centre/johnny-timpsons-blog/signposting-for-vulnerable-customers.html>

4.4. Harnessing technology and innovation

In total, 92 commitments were made around ‘technology and innovation’ at GDS18 representing 9.5% of all GDS18 commitments. For this Progress Report, 52 of the 92 commitments were reported on. All stakeholder groups reported on progress toward commitments they’d made. Seventeen of the commitments were reported on by governments (of which, four are commitments made by donors), compared with 21 commitments reported on by civil society. Five commitments were reported on by multilaterals and nine reported on by foundations or institutions other than governments, multilaterals, foundations, civil society or private sector organisations. No commitments were reported on by the private sector or research institutes.

Figure 9 - Harnessing technology and innovation commitments reported on by stakeholders



In total, 15% of the reported commitments are reported as being complete, 67% are underway, 6% delayed and 10% ‘not started’. One commitment is reported as being discontinued (2%).

Almost half of all ‘technology and innovation’ commitments by governments that have been reported on respond to specific challenges, including: accessible communication and information; inclusive education; accessible employment; and, accessible infrastructure. Targets linked to assistive technologies also feature, including by improving the affordability of assistive technologies through ATscale (the global partnership for assistive technology) and reducing import taxes and levies. Most of the commitments reported on by multilaterals also focus on improving the availability and affordability of assistive technologies. Commitments reported on by foundations are mostly focused on researching and developing assistive technologies, especially in relation to improving communication and the accessibility of information.

Looking ahead to the next Global Disability Summit, there appears to be gaps in commitments focused on rolling out a wider range of data collection tools to capture usage, breakage and repair of assistive technology and increasing the number of health professionals able to deliver assistive technology. There also appears to be a need for further commitments focused on strengthening the agency of persons with disabilities around assistive technologies.

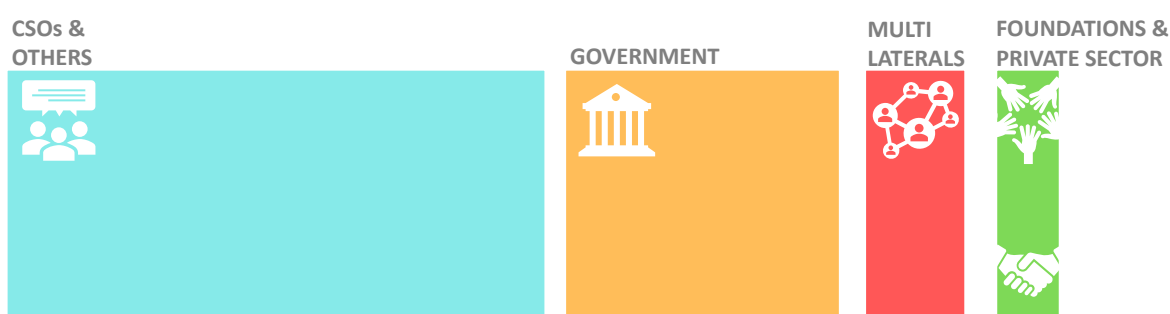
KEY PROGRESS:

- **UNICEF** is scaling up the provision of assistive devices and technology for children with disabilities through engagement in global partnerships. During 2019, Kenya and China UNICEF (as a board member and a key implementer respectively) played a central role in the operationalization of ATscale.
- The **UK Government's** AT2030 programme is now directly reaching up to nine million people with assistive technology and its services, as well as a further six million people indirectly. This includes humanitarian settings, where, for example, Humanity and Inclusion is testing 3D printing of orthotics and prosthetics in a refugee camp setting. In partnership with ATscale, AT2030 has published five product narratives outlining the barriers to access for priority products (including wheelchairs, eye glasses, prosthetics and orthotics, hearing aids and digital assistive technology).
- The **Inter-American Development Bank** hosted a seminar in 2018 focusing on digital technology and disability inclusion.
- The **World Health Organization** is on track to publish the first Global Report on Access to Assistive Technology in 2021⁵¹.

4.5. Women and girls with disabilities

In total, 105 commitments were made around 'women and girls' at GDS18 representing 11% of all GDS18 commitments. For this Progress Report, 64 of the 105 commitments were reported on. All stakeholder groups reported on progress toward commitments they'd made. Fourteen of the commitments were reported on by governments (of which, three are commitments made by donors), compared with 28 commitments reported on by civil society. Seven commitments were reported on by multilaterals and 15 reported on by foundations, the private sector and research institutes combined.

Figure 10 - Women and girls with disabilities commitments reported on by stakeholders



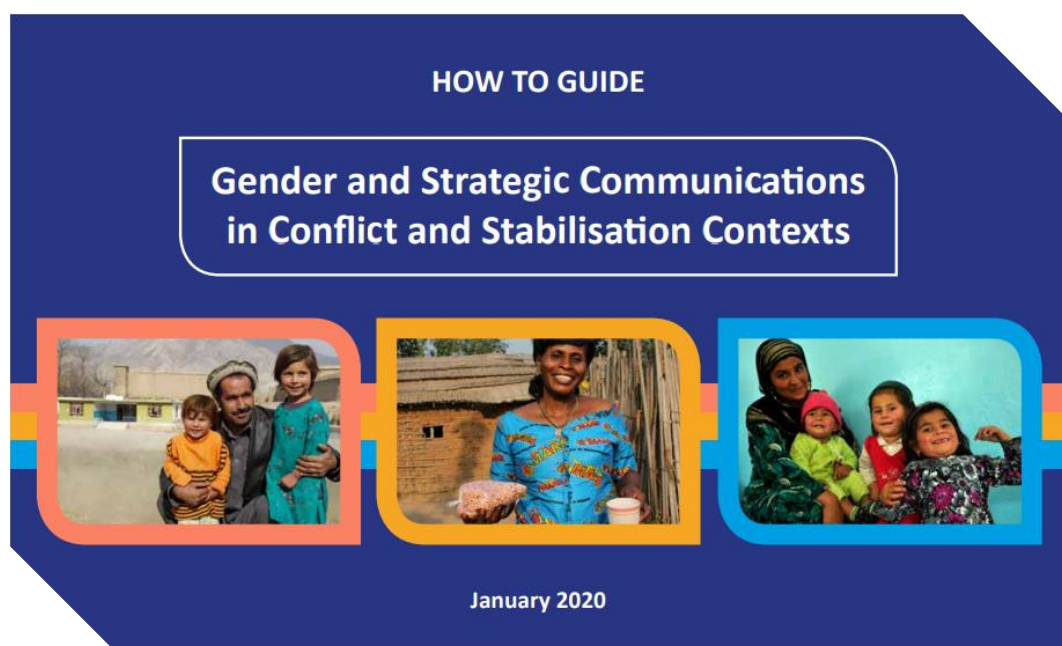
In total, 22% of the reported commitments are reported as being complete, 64% are underway, 11% delayed and 1% 'not started'. One commitment is reported as being discontinued.

⁵¹ See https://www.who.int/phi/implementation/assistive_technology/great_consultation2019/en/

The majority of commitments reported on by governments relate to sexual reproductive health rights and gender-based violence, with some mention of gender equality in general, and inclusion in programming through greater accessibility to services and funding measures. Multilateral agencies report mostly on commitments that are targeted at the global level, with themes such as mainstreaming and/or adopting a twin track approach.

GDS18 commitments for women and girls with disabilities prioritised issues of gender-based violence, including harmful practices, and access to sexual reproductive health. COVID-19 has exacerbated the urgency of these issues as reports of increased incidence of violence and harmful practices such as early marriage have emerged. Efforts appear to have increased to address the intersection of gender and disability and other factors, especially age, but also ethnicity/caste, religion, location, sexuality and social status. Donors and multilaterals are increasingly making explicit demands to their grantees and/or partners to include a focus on gender and disability in development programmes.

Looking forward to the next Global Disability Summit, gaps appear to remain in the way stakeholders understand how women and girls with disabilities experience discrimination throughout their life cycle and across thematic areas. Here social norms have the greatest hold on the status quo, and are where high levels of continuous commitments are most needed to respond in ways that guarantee transformational change.



Credit: UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

KEY PROGRESS:

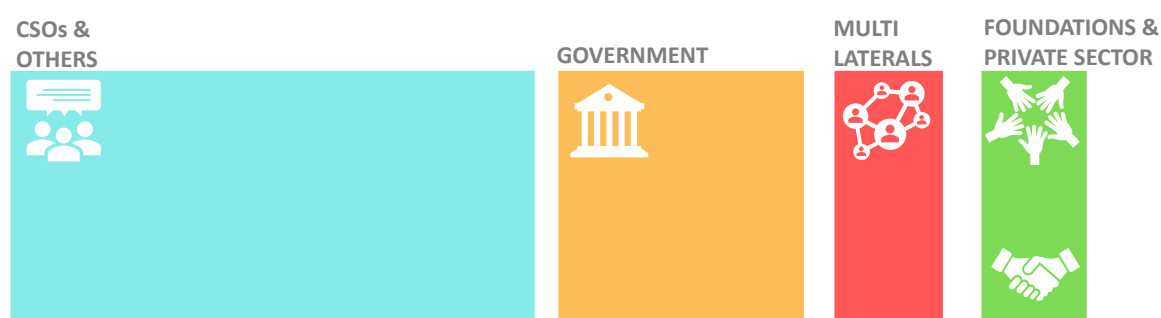
- **UN Women** have been improving and promoting the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities both internally (through staff capacity development, and adapting systems and policies), and externally (through partnerships, capacity development, guidance notes, and convening working groups)

- The **UK's FCDO** are encouraging the inclusion of gender-, age-, and disability-focused minimum standards in grantee applications, adapted from their 'How To' Guidance Note on Gender Equality⁵².

4.6. Conflict and humanitarian contexts

In total, 97 commitments were made around 'conflict and humanitarian response' at GDS18 representing 10% of all GDS18 commitments. For this Progress Report, 55 of the 97 commitments were reported on. Fourteen of the commitments were reported on by governments (of which, five are commitments made by donors), compared with 21 commitments reported on by civil society. Seven commitments were reported on by multilaterals, 13 commitments were reported on by the private sector other stakeholder groups combined. No commitments were reported on by foundations or research institutes.

Figure 11 Conflict and humanitarian contexts commitments reported on by stakeholders



In total, 40% of the reported commitments are reported as being complete, 49% are underway and 11% delayed.

A common feature across all government commitments reported on is a reference to 'mainstreaming' disability inclusion across humanitarian activities, with particular reference to the Charter for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. Almost half of the commitments reported on by multilateral organisations concern the direct delivery of services, including health services and disability-inclusive reconstruction efforts.

The need to finalise and implement standards, including the IASC Guidelines, the Charter for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and organisation-specific standards and guidelines are also popular areas referenced by multilaterals.

Looking ahead to the next Global Disability Summit, there appear to be gaps in commitments that concern translating guidance into action, producing evidence regarding the cost of inclusion in humanitarian action and rolling out a wider range of data collection tools that further commitments could help plug. There is also a clear need for commitments which

⁵² Available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866351/How to Guide on Gender and Strategic Communication in Conflict and Stabilisation Contexts - January 2020 - Stabilisation Unit.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866351/How_to_Guide_on_Gender_and_Strategic_Communication_in_Conflict_and_Stabilisation_Contexts_-_January_2020_-_Stabilisation_Unit.pdf)

promote opportunities for including persons with disabilities in decision making as well as driving sustained, organisational change.

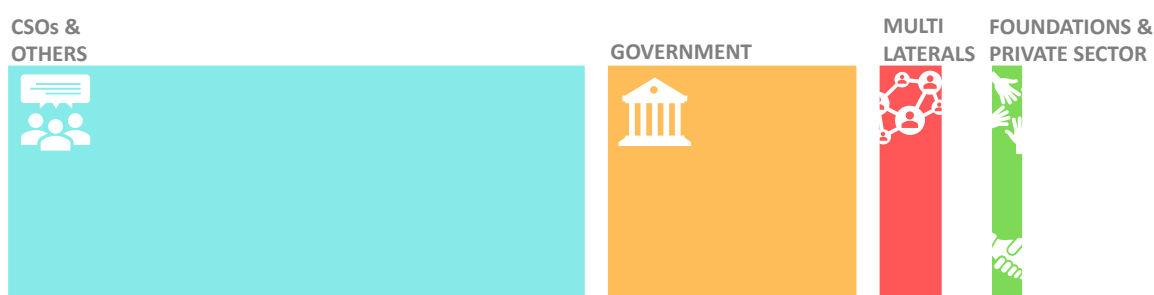
KEY PROGRESS:

- The **Australian Government** has provided substantial funding over four years to support disability-inclusive humanitarian action in response to the Syria crisis⁵³.
- The **Rwanda National Council of Persons with Disabilities** is reviewing the refugee registration system to ensure that the disability assessment framework is aligned with the definition of disability provided in the CRPD and the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health.
- The **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** formally endorsed the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and launched Guidelines and entry points on Disaster Risk Reduction and crisis prevention, response and recovery⁵⁴.

4.7. Data disaggregation

In total, 117 commitments were made around 'Data' at GDS18 representing 12% of all GDS18 commitments. For this Progress Report, 82 of the 117 commitments were reported on. All stakeholder groups reported on progress toward commitments they'd made. Twenty-two of the commitments were reported on by governments (of which, six are commitments made by donors), compared with 30 commitments reported on by civil society. Thirteen commitments were reported on by multilaterals; 17 commitments were reported on by the private sector, foundations, research institutes and other stakeholder groups combined.

Figure 12: Data disaggregation commitments reported on by stakeholders



⁵³ See <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/syria-crisis-humanitarian-resilience-package-design.pdf>

⁵⁴ Available at: https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/crisis%20prevention/disaster/Issue_brief_disaster_risk_reduction_governance_11012013.pdf

In total, 37% of the reported commitments are reported as being complete, 49% are underway, 11% delayed and 3% are not yet started.

Most government commitments reported on reference the specific use of or an intention to adopt the Washington Group set of questions for collecting disability disaggregated data. Commitments reported on by multilaterals also focus on implementation of Washington Group questions in data collection exercises. While there are very few commitments reported on by the private sector and foundations, the focus of commitments that are reported on is on ensuring implementing partners or grantees have the capacity to collect and analyse disability data.

Looking ahead to the next Global Disability Summit, gaps appear to remain in commitments to increase analysis and use of disability disaggregated data within programming. Documenting disability prevalence within different surveys and research pieces will increase visibility, but that will not automatically lead to more inclusive programming. This requires greater commitment to support research around barriers, led-by and including persons with disabilities.

KEY PROGRESS:

- The Washington Group Questions sets are now being used by several donors including: **DFAT** (for monitoring implementation of the CRPD and the Sustainable Development Goals); **Finland** (now part of the minimum standards required by Finland of all new aid-funded initiatives), and the **UK**.
- The **Government of Kenya** reported using the Washington Group questions in their 2019 census, while the **governments of Zambia and Rwanda** reported specific plans to use these questions in their upcoming census exercises.
- The **Government of Uganda** reported integrating disability disaggregation in several surveys, going beyond Washington Group questions to include the collection of more detailed functional information.
- One chapter of the **UNDP's** Disability Inclusive Development focuses on data, programming for disability inclusion, monitoring and evaluation.
- **UNHCR** is now finalising its guidance for the identification of persons with disabilities within its registration system. The guidance will be followed by a capacity building plan to roll-out the new way of collecting data across UNHCR operations.
- The **World Health Organization's** Model Disability Survey has now been implemented at national level in Afghanistan, Costa Rica and the Philippines as well as in Dubai and at regional level in Pakistan.
- **Washington Group** report good progress on the availability of internationally comparable disability statistics as a result of their tools, training and support. They have now developed six tools all of which have been extensively tested, endorsed, adopted and made publicly available.