**Evaluation of the Disability Catalyst Programme and BRIDGE CRPD-SDGs Programme 2017–2020**

**Managerial Response of IDA to the recommendations from the evaluation report**

**Background**

In 2020, IDA launched an open tender and identified an external evaluation team to assess the Disability Catalyst Programme, co-funded by DFID and MoFA Finland. This programme has a particular importance to IDA as the first large programme under which IDA and its members engaged in coordinated operational collaboration. The evaluation also entailed a component focused on the strategic capacity building initiative Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative. The evaluation was conducted by Eviance, and supported by advisory committees involving representatives of donors and IDA members and the IDA-IDDC Bridge steering committee (for the Bridge component).

The full report was released in July 2020 and is available online on this link: in [pdf](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/2020.07.24_ida_disability_catalyst_programme_final_evaluation_report_final.pdf) and in [word](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/2020.07.24_ida_disability_catalyst_programme_final_evaluation_report_final.docx) formats.

This document is the managerial response of IDA to the recommendations entailed in the evaluation report, and covers both recommendations related to the Disability Catalyst Programme (1) and to the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative (2).

1. **Recommendations related to the Disability Catalyst Programme**

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|  | **Recommendation to IDA** | **IDA’s Response** |
| **1** | **Consolidate collaboratively the learnings from the Catalyst Programme**. Many key informants expressed excitement about the increased data and information produced through the Catalyst Programme and are independently considering what to do next. There is opportunity now to leverage the relationships built between IDA members and their constituents to enhance capacity for knowledge mobilization in the future. Thus, we recommend sustaining efforts to generate evidence based on the needs and interests of diverse DPOs and to collaboratively strategize knowledge mobilization efforts. Our evaluation indicates:* + The IDA Secretariat should continue to be a key facilitator of this process. Most key informants commented that the technical skills and support received from the IDA Secretariat was a key mechanism affecting outcomes and impacts;
	+ Knowledge mobilization efforts should align with the goal of stronger cohesion within the disability movement while creating more opportunities and platforms for diverse voices. This includes creating dedicated spaces for women, Indigenous and other under-represented groups of people with disabilities to inform the development of solutions and decision making; and,
	+ The IPC is an ideal space for IDA members to coalesce and collaborate to enhance capacity for all members to engage in a united knowledge mobilization strategy.
 | **Fully agree.** IDA’s aim through the next Strategic Framework is to continue investing in movement building, increasing evidence and finding ways to develop a collective voice among the alliance. Pillar 6 of the new strategy specificly focuses on strengthening the collective response capacity to coordinate the views and represent the diversity of the global disability rights movement. For example, IDA plans to coordinate a combined webinar to launch and disseminate the 14 SDG reports completed through the Catalyst Programme, projecting a collective voice for SDG evidence. IDA will also continue to provide platforms to discuss and strategize our work with IDA members, such as on social protection, or optimizing the use of the IDA Global Survey results. Indeed, the IPC will remain a strategic place for programmatic engagement, dialogue among members, learning and sharing. In order to leverage our members’ strengths and propel momentum generated through the Catalyst Programme, IDA will continue to develop its Capacity Building work, and will also develop new initiatives to enhance strategic investment, coordination and mobilization of the movement: these include an OPD-led pool fund to facilitate strategic investment in OPDs, an accessible online portal to facilitate access and exchange of knowledge and expertise on disability rights, online training tools and modules, and a platform to support OPDs’ engagement in technical assistance. |
| **2** | **Expand mentorship and training for more effective monitoring and the development of evidence for advocacy.** Key informants said that the research training and expertise provided by IDA was a key mechanism affecting programme outputs. Key informants expressed the valuable expertise of consultants through research training and mentorship in the development of the SDG reports and other initiatives supported by the NOLB grants such as the Global Report on the Situation and Rights of Persons with Deafblindness and the IFHOH needs assessment survey. This mentorship and support were described as an essential mechanism to enhance the varying capacities of IDA members. Our evaluation also revealed that the SDG reports varied in rigour and focus. Thus, we recommend:* + Provide more research guidance or mentorship to increase the technical quality of the SDG reports. This would include more trainings like the global workshop on SDG report writing held in Geneva in January 2019;
	+ Enhance training and support to DPOs to strategically develop SDG reports with clear actionable goals. Some key informants said that the SDG reports could be improved to explicate recommendations for strategic advocacy based on evidence gathered in the reports; and,
	+ Maintain participatory processes in the development of evidence for monitoring and advocacy. This process should be led by diverse people and DPOs in accordance with their needs and interests and in collaboration with other stakeholders and allies. Several key informants commented that engaging duty bearers through participatory research processes contributed to an increased sense of shared ownership towards changes in national policies or programmes.
 | **Fully agree.** With the first cycle of SDGs reports completed through the Catalyst programme, a set of key learnings have emerged which will provide a pathway for the next round of SDG report writing. A webinar will be organised in the second semester of 2020 to debrief the experience with the first 14 SDG reports, discuss how members have used these, and strategize the next reports. This will also include revamping guidance provided to report writings, including both process and suggested report structures. Close connections will be established where needed with the Capacity Development Unit (e.g. SDG report involvement can be a useful trajectory for Bridge alumni to practice their skills; training on data collection and budget analysis may also support report writers) Connections will also be reinforeced with the new Advocacy Unit to link more strongly with the HLPF mechanism and CRPD parallel reporting, providing a dedicated avenue for disability activists to contribute to the local and regional monitoring process of both the SDGs and other monitoring frameworks.   |
| **3** | **Amplify the work on intersectionality to make it more visible.** Evaluation findings indicate that there are several ways in which the Catalyst Programme is utilizing an intersectional framework to promote inclusion. However, there is opportunity to do more to enhance the visibility of diverse and under-represented groups of people with disabilities in the work of the Catalyst Programme. These opportunities include:* + Increase the visibility of the priorities of Indigenous people and women with disabilities as disempowered groups. This would mean engaging more with disabled women’s and Indigenous organizations at the national, regional and global level as recommended in the previous Sida evaluation (2019);
	+ Broaden the focus and definition of under-represented groups to include women and Indigenous people from diverse religious and age groups, racialized and LGBTQ+ communities, etc. This intersectional approach can be used as an exemplar of the strategy outlined in the UN system-wide policy on disability inclusion (United Nations, 2019); and,
	+ Expand the Quality Criteria of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative for composition, diversity and inclusiveness of participants in other Catalyst Programme components.
 | **Fully agree.** IDA recognizes the importance of continuing and amplifying the commitment to increase the visibility of the priorities of underrepresented groups, including indigenous persons, women with disabilities, youth and other age groups. Pillar 4 of IDA’s new strategy is dedicated to strengthening the capacity of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities for self-representation and advocate for their priorities to be include within the disability movement and other civil society movements. This includes references within prominent outcome documents and reports, and increased representation. Indicator 4.A will have targets to monitor the governance and work of IDA to ensure it reflects and promotes the diversity of persons with disabilities, including underrepresented groups. This portfolio will be managed by the Capacity Building unit. **Indigenous people:**Investments will be made in supporting the continued development and expansion of the Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN), including membership at the national and regional levels. We are hiring a fellow on indigenous issues and it will help the central work to be strengthened.**Gender:** The Women and Girls with Disabilities Flagship started under the Catalyst Programme will continue to engage within the disability, and the women’s movement, for example recent advocacy within Beijing +25. We built a whastapp group of women with disabilities among the Bridge African Alumni and we are hiring a fellow that will be supporting our work on that specifically. We are also strengthening contact with mainstream LGBTQ+ organisations.**Age:** A listserv for and with youth people with disabilities has also been established, and we are initiating contact with mainstream organisations of youth people. A newly recruited colleague from the Advocacy Unit with past experience at HelpAge will serve as focal point on ageing and disability. We will also support the work undertaken by WFDB on persons with deafblindness. **Other underrepresented groups:** IDA is harmonizing its definition of underrepresented groups to improve monitoring and attention paid to include to these groups, in a context-specific manner. We have started more coordinated work between the Capacity Building Unit and Advocacy Unit on mental health and people with psychosocial disabilities, with senior human rights advisory skills newly recruited to support this important issue.  |
| **4** | **Support IDA members to develop capacity to meaningfully engage with regional and national constituencies.** This would involve gathering and sharing lessons learned from IDA members who have engaged in regional or national level projects through various components of the Catalyst Programme in the past through dedicated advocacy funds to target regional and national institutions through IDA’s members. We also recommend considering ways of linking local rights-related issues, solutions and leaders to state-level, regional and global forums, networks, and discussions. Thus, we recommend expanding on these efforts to increase regional and national level impacts. | **Agree:** Although IDA is a global alliance, we acknowledge the importance and value to stimulate greater connections within regional and national constituencies. Often IDA relies on IDA Members to communicate and directly engage with national or regional constituencies. However, IDA is working towards encouraging greater harmonization and linkages at the national and regional level as much as possible. Numerous activities are piloted or supported at the country level to foster connections between national implementation and global frameworks and commitments (e.g. CRPD country review, SDG national reports, UPR process, follow-up to the Global Disability Summit commitments at national level, pilot coordination of OPD engagement with INGOs in selected countries, national Bridge training cycles, support to fellows at the national level, etc.). Within IDA’s new Strategic Framework 2020-2023, there has been an emphasis on increased activities and support at a regional level, for example with the SDGs or within the women’s agenda, as we recognize the great impact of advocacy at this level. Without an objective to work at the national level, IDA is concerned by ensuring the constant relevance of its work to this level. The network of IDA fellows, Bridge alumni and connections with IDA members are important venues to ensure this.Additionally, IDA will be carrying out a IDA Member mapping exercise in the coming year which will provide a central place to identify stronger connections at the national and regional levels. |
| **5** | **The IDA Global Survey on DPO Participation in Development Programmes and Policies is a pilot project worthy of continuation.** Several key informants suggested that there is value in developing and enhancing the IDA Global Survey to build capacity for ongoing data collection. Lessons learned through the development and implementation of the survey were clearly documented in the initial report and echoed by some key informants (International Disability Alliance, 2019). In addition to addressing these lessons learned by improving the data collection and analysis process, we recommend:* Adding questions to capture and map the different types and nature of DPOs involved in the movement, as well as their networks and connections to broader civil society organizations. This information could be used to support connections between organizations and gather a clearer picture of the global disability rights movement.
 | **Fully agree.** The inaugural IDA Global Survey has provided a wealth of lessons which have been compiled and will be used for approaching the next Global Survey, especially in terms of content and structure of the survey. One of the key lessons from the first survey, was the need for a fully accessible survey platform as there were significant accessibility barriers within the previous platform used. For this reason, IDA has begun to work with Preignition to develop a tailored, accessible survey platform. In the next phase of the Global Survey process, IDA will work with IDA members to discuss the findings of the report, its possible use for advocacy, as well as best ways to keep mobilising the movement in response to the next Global Survey. Methodological considerations will be paid to explore how to best reflect the reality of different nature of OPDs at local/ national/ regional level, or across different regions. To support greater connections within the movement, IDA plans to conduct a separate mapping exercise of IDA Members’ members (as mentioned above) |
| **6** | **Continue to pursue funding opportunities that support the practice of fiscal hosting.** This evaluation reinforces previous recommendations to expand the practice of fiscal hosting for IDA members with limited capacity. Our evaluation suggests that the DFID funding model supporting the Catalyst Programme was a key mechanism in the outcomes of the IPC and NOLB grants. According to key informants, this funding model provided the opportunity for IDA members to direct funds toward initiatives based on the expressed needs and interests of their constituents. This funding also provided the opportunity for members to take the lead on Catalyst initiatives and projects with support from the IDA Secretariat.  | **Fully agree:** IDA is and will continue to pursue financial support from existing and new donors and facilitate access to funding for projects to IDA Members in the form of fiscal hosting. IDA has already developed new avenues for this, such as through funding secured from NORAD to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in Sub-Saharan Africa, or from the MoFA Finland as well as other DFID-funded projects (e.g. Inclusive Futures). Additional funding from DFID/FCDO is secured to carry-out Phase 2 of the Disability Catalyst Programme, where terms and conditions for sub-granting to IDA members are being discussed. We welcome this positive evaluation of our tailored system to facilitate access to funding for IDA members to help maintain the flexibility in due diligence requirements that made it possible and successful in phase1.  |
| **7** | **Advocate for reasonable funding requirements by donors to promote equitable access to funds for DPOs with varying levels of capacity**. This would involve providing technical support to donors to make reporting requirements more accessible. We also recommend leveraging relationships with donors to promote the benefits of providing seed money to DPOs to support further fundraising. | **Fully agree.** IDA has been raising the attention of GLAD network members to the need for enhanced investments in OPD capacity development, which led to full session discussions during the GLAD network meeting of Feb 2020. In addition, IDA will work with its partners to review and document its unique model of flexible grantmaking/ fiscal hosting which uniquely opened doors for access to funding, as well as organisational capacity growth for IDA members (as per their priorities, situation and request). IDA is currently faced with an escalation in due diligence requirements among donors, which result in downstream partners with least capacities being those most impacted (as similar requirements apply). We will keep advocating and building a case for flexible and proportionate approaches to risk management, to support equitable access to funds for OPDs.  |

1. **Recommendations related to Bridge CRPD-SDGs**

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|  | **Recommendation to IDA** | **IDA’s Response** |
| 1 | **Continue with in-person trainings**. This evaluation indicates that the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative provides a unique peer learning experience of inclusivity and accessibility that is facilitated through in-person training experiences. | **Fully agree**: IDA is fully committed to maintain its in person training, and is maintaining its funds accordingly. In 2020, IDA is supporting IDA members tocarry out trainings in countries where the COVID19 situation allows for such trainings. |
| 2 | **Develop an online knowledge sharing and capacity building platform** to complement in-person training**.** We recommend the development of a dedicated Bridge CRPD-SDGs online knowledge sharing and capacity building platform to further enhance the sustainability and decentralization of the initiative. The development of an online platform was suggested by some key informants who wanted to support increased engagement in Bridge. The COVID 19 pandemic has highlighted the need for such a platform to connect participants, partners, and Alumni across the globe. This platform may increase efficiency and reduce some of the costs per participant by reducing air travel and other transportation costs. While there will be an initial financial cost to develop the platform, the longer-term benefits may outweigh this initial expense. Reduced travel and transportation for participants has an additional benefit of reducing the carbon footprint of the initiative.Our evaluation indicates that this platform should:* Provide opportunities for participation in asynchronous virtual training modules, webinars, resources and/or opportunities for live (synchronous) web conferencing and mentoring.
* Enhance support for the growing community of Bridge Alumni who are connecting online using various platforms such as WhatsApp.
* Engage in a collaborative co-design process including IDA and IDDC member organizations, Bridge Alumni, DPOs or other stakeholders to develop the platform in accordance with their diverse interests and needs.
* Reflect the values and principles of inclusion and accessibility to the fullest extent possible in line with the Bridge Quality Criteria and Working Principles.
 | **Fully agree**: A public procurement process to purchaise an accessible, asynchonic and adequate online platform is achieving its conclusion by mid-October, which is being fully implemented in consultation and following guidance of IDA members.An IDA team was hired to develop the first modules and a team of consultants and service providers such as sign language interpreters, captioners, video designers, etc are being recruited by end of October 2020. |
| 3 | **Co-design a knowledge mobilization strategy** to support Bridge Alumni to act on what they have learned. Our evaluation indicates there is a role of the Bridge coordination team and steering committee in the mobilization of knowledge. There is a need to articulate how IDA and IDDC members should promote knowledge mobilization and formally support Bridge Alumni to engage in advocacy. This co-design process should include the perspectives of IDA and IDDC member organization representatives, Bridge Alumni, and donors.  | **Fully agree**: A meeting was held with the IDDC DPOs Task Group to explore how to build more interlinkages with IDDC members and explore how to better mobilise the knowledge gathered by and among the Bridge Alumni. A series of webinars is being prepared to IDDC members. |
| 4 | **Facilitate formal opportunities for Bridge Alumni** to mobilize knowledge into action. We recommend:* **Establish shared responsibilities among IDA and IDDC member organizations** to promote inclusion of under-represented groups at a global, regional and national level as a central feature of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative.
* **Identify or create various opportunities for Bridge Alumni** to mobilize knowledge in recognition of their various starting points and personal trajectories to enhance their knowledge and skills. These opportunities may include:
	+ **Formal paid employment** or consultancies for organizations to benefit from the knowledge and experiences of Bridge Alumni. These opportunities should also promote the right to work in line with CRPD Article 27 (Work and employment) to offer meaningful work experience and the development of transferable skills for Alumni.
	+ **Formal internships with financial honoraria and effective mentorship** in line with CRPD Article 24 (Education) in terms of promoting dignity and self-worth, talents and creativity, as well as their mental and physical abilities, to their fullest potential.
* **Use information gathered through the Bridge Alumni survey to identify potential opportunities and gaps in participation*.*** This survey is an efficient and informative data collection tool to reveal ways in which Bridge Alumni are applying their knowledge to influence public policies and reinforce DPO activists’ capacities.
 | **Fully agree**: Several meetings are being organised with the IDDC learders to explore the ways forward. IDA and IDDC will keep collaborating under numerous initiatives, including the Covid-19 task force, and a new stream of joint civil society technical assistance to UN agencies through the UN PRPD. Projects with a country level component, such as Inclusion Works, offer opportunities for greater connection between IDA members and IDDC members. The IDA Fellowship programme including its mentorship component will continue to develop and offer exposure and practice opportunities to support disability activists’ trajectories. The survey on Bridge alumni as well as other monitoring tools will continue to be used to track the outputs and longer term outcomes of the Bridge training programme. |
| 5 | **Strengthen communication with partners and other stakeholders**.As a joint initiative, there is opportunity for the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative steering committee and coordination team to:* + Develop a more effective joint communication strategy with greater participation of representatives from IDA and IDDC member organizations.
	+ Address frequently asked questions about:
		- Who is eligible to participate in Bridge?
		- How can organizations connect with Bridge Alumni?
		- How can an individual apply to participate in Bridge training?
		- How can participants stay connected with other Bridge Alumni?
		- Who will provide mentorship for Bridge Alumni?
		- How can participants use the knowledge they have gained for effective advocacy?
 | **Fully agree**: The Bridge team proposed to the IDDC DPO TG to have a monthly webinar to discuss with IDDC members about Bridge.Also, the Bridge CRPD-SDGs page is being re-designed to facilitate access to information. |
| 6 | **Continue and enhance the Alumni survey**. We recommend continuing the Alumni survey on an annual basis to capture the perspectives of Alumni on outcomes and impacts of the Bridge CRPD-SDGs training initiative. To enhance this survey, we recommend reviewing the survey questions for **minor adjustments** including:* + - Increased clarity of some questions to reduce the potential for ambiguity. For example:
			* Instead of: “*Would you be willing to mentor Bridge participants to review their assignments? If yes, what area would interest you more? Please indicate*.”
			* Try this instead:
				+ *“Would you be willing to review Bridge participant assignments?”*
				+ *“If yes, please list your areas of interest.”*
		- Revising double-barreled questions to ask one thing per question. For example:
			* Revise: “*How has the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Initiative supported you to engage in strategic advocacy or to monitor the implementation of the CRPD and or the SDGs or to be exposed to regional or international events, meetings, consultations, etc.? Please, develop*.”
			* To the following sample of questions that address each outcome separately using multiple choice or open-ended response options:
				+ “*How has the* *Bridge CRPD-SDGs Initiative supported you to engage in strategic advocacy?”*
				+ *“How has the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Initiative supported you to monitor the implementation of the CRPD?”*
				+ *“How has the Bridge CRPD-SDGs Initiative supported you to monitor the implementation of the SDGs?”*
 | **Fully agree**: It is being discussed with IDA’s MEAL and Program Unit (PU) to strengthen the Bridge survey as well as to use the new survey tools the PU is developing.  |