**Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities HLPF Consultation Submission on Goal 5**

The SDGs will not be achieved without persons with disabilities. This is particularly true for SDG 5, because an estimated 1 in 5 women lives with a disability, yet the dual discrimination they experience is often rendered invisible in gender equality laws, policies, and practices.[[1]](#footnote-1) Intersecting forms of discrimination based on gender, type of disability, age, socioeconomic class, indigenous or ethnic group, sexuality, or religion, among others can shape their identity and the forms of discrimination they experience.

Women and girls account for three-quarters of all persons with disabilities in low and middle-income countries.[[2]](#footnote-2) Compounded by poverty and marginalization, these inequalities expose women and girls with disabilities to a higher risk of violence and abuse.[[3]](#footnote-3)

The lack of inclusion and limited access to equal opportunities results in the marginalization of women and girls with disabilities. Similarly, women and girls with disabilities are left behind and excluded by inadequate services and support systems that lack awareness, training, and capacity; lack of access to justice; and inaccessible and hostile environments.[[4]](#footnote-4)

1. **What has changed since the last time this Goal was reviewed at the HLPF? Any deviations in progress from what was expected (including due to Covid-19)?**

“Gender, disability and structural inequalities, which characterized societies before the crisis, are being exacerbated by the multifaceted impact of the Covid-19 crisis.”[[5]](#footnote-5) However, the lack of disaggregated data on the dual intersections of gender and disability has made it challenging to develop an evidence-based analysis of the impact of Covid -19 to facilitate mainstreamed policies for women and girls with disabilities.[[6]](#footnote-6) What data is available suggests “that the gap is large compared with men without disabilities: women with disabilities are three times more likely to have unmet needs for health care; three times more likely to be illiterate; two times less likely to be employed and two times less likely to use the internet.”[[7]](#footnote-7) Isolation, lockdowns, and quarantines can leave women and girls with disabilities less able to escape and seek redress for violence, and they are at an increased risk of violence as a result.[[8]](#footnote-8)

The Covid pandemic especially impacted women, who provide more caregiving than men. In the sectors of economy where women are disproportionately represented, the pandemic has had an even more magnified impact. Inclusion International reports: “Women have a double burden of care, and now, the lockdown has even increased the burden on women due to child caring. And if you’re looking at a woman with children with disabilities, this burden of care has become maybe even tripled.”[[9]](#footnote-9)

1. **What are the main obstacles to implementation of this Goal, including interlinkages with other Goals and connections to related processes?**

The absence of policies and programmes explicitly recognizing the lived experiences of women and girls with disabilities compound their marginalization. This has largely been a result of their exclusion from participation and leadership in policy making processes. It is more effective to plan for inclusion rather than react. Therefore, to build back better from Covid-19 and make progress towards the SDGs, meaningful engagement with women and girls with disabilities and their representative organizations is essential, including in preparation, response, and recovery from crisis.

1. **What are new/promising openings and opportunities to implement this goal, including interlinkages with other Goals and connections related processes?**

To ensure SDG 5 is realised, women and girls with disabilities and their representative organisations should be considered across all targets and included in all efforts development plans, policies and processes; and develop global and local partnerships with organizations of persons with disabilities to invest in women and girls with disabilities’ capacities.

1. **Can you share an example of an innovative policy, programme, project or partnership related to this Goal that could be scaled up and support accelerated implementation?**

[*Bridge CRPD-SDGs*](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/bridge-crpd-sdgs-training-initiative) is an intensive training programme that aims to support organisations of persons with disabilities and disability rights advocates to develop an inclusive (all persons with disabilities) and comprehensive (all human rights) CRPD perspective on development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, to reinforce their advocacy for inclusion and realisation of rights of persons with disabilities. It emphasises the participation of women and girls with disabilities, to support their leadership within the disability movement.

1. International Disability Alliance, 2018.Women and girls with disabilities flagship [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. UN Women, Making the SDGs count for women with disability, 2017.<https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2017/making-sdgs-count-for-women-with-disabilities.pdf?la=en&vs=731> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. UN Women. (2020). Women with disabilities in a pandemic (Covid-19). Available from: [https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-women-with-disabilities-in-a-pandemic-Covid-19](https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/policy-brief-women-with-disabilities-in-a-pandemic-covid-19); Ortoleva, S., Lewis, H. (2012), Forgotten Sisters – A report on violence against women with disabilities, Women Enabled, NUSL [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. IDA, Voices of people with disabilities during the Covid19 Outbreak [https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/voices-people-disabilities-during-Covid19-outbreak](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/voices-people-disabilities-during-covid19-outbreak) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. UN/DESA Policy Brief #69: *Leaving no one behind: the Covid-19 crisis through the disability and gender lens,* 2020 available at [https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-desa-policy-brief-69-leaving-no-one-behind-the-Covid-19-crisis-through-the-disability-and-gender-lens/](https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/publication/un-desa-policy-brief-69-leaving-no-one-behind-the-covid-19-crisis-through-the-disability-and-gender-lens/)  para 2 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Women Enabled International, The Impact of Covid-19 on Women and Girls with Disabilities, 2021, [https://womenenabled.org/reports/the-impact-of-Covid-19-on-women-and-girls-with-disabilities/](https://womenenabled.org/reports/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-and-girls-with-disabilities/). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Inclusion International, *A Global Agenda for Inclusive Recovery: Ensuring People with Intellectual Disabilities and Families are Included in a Post-Covid World.* 2021. Available at [https://inclusion-international.org/a-global-agenda-post-Covid/](https://inclusion-international.org/a-global-agenda-post-covid/%20) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)