*“WE DON’T WANT TO REMAIN STUCK AT HOME”[[1]](#footnote-1)*

Towards Inclusive and Responsive Social Protection Systems

**Side event Conference of state parties 2021**

The isolation that many people have experienced for the first time with Covid related lockdown is a common situation for millions of persons with disabilities stuck at home far from work, education, and community life.

Before the COVID 19 crisis, persons with disabilities across regions and countries were already facing multiple barriers and significant inequalities in terms of poverty, education, health, work, and social participation. The crisis exacerbated vulnerabilities, and there are legitimate concerns that its lasting socio-economic and fiscal impact will widen those inequalities even more.

In regular times and even more so during crises, social protection has a crucial role in ensuring basic income security, providing access to health care, and covering the diversity of disability-related costs faced in relation to education, work, and living in the community.

However, globallyless than 30% of persons with significant disabilities have access to disability-related benefits, down to less than 20% in low and middle-income countries and less than 10% in low-income countries.

In the last year, we have witnessed how much having a universal and comprehensive social protection system supports response to major co-variate shock. Countries with good coverage and adequacy of disability benefits and/or disability registries could respond more effectively. On the other hand, countries that did not have such systems or did so with low coverage struggled to provide support.

Beyond coverage, however, the type of support provided can either enable or undermine inclusion and participation. Disability support schemes that are poverty targeted and/or subject to capacity to work criteria often ignore the diversity of disability-related costs and the isolation of persons with disabilities even within non-poor families.

The side event will be articulated around three segments:

* First, it will give an overview of the readiness of social protection systems to provide support in to persons with disabilities and their families and the type of measures taken in the last 12 months.
* Second, it will also reflect on the evolution of the understanding and engagement of organisations of persons with disabilities toward social protection throughout the COVID 19 crisis.
* Finally, it will emphasize the importance of improving the identification of persons with disabilities and their support needs, including in humanitarian contexts, to develop progressively the combination of in-cash and in-kind schemes that will provide both income security and flexible support for achieving equal participation in the community

**Agenda and Speakers**

* Moderator- *Rosangela Berman Bieler, UNICEF*
* Opening remarks - UK-FCDO (TBC)
* Social protection systems and persons with disabilities: Fit for purpose?
  + *Global overview of the response to COVID 19 and readiness of social protection system to support persons with disabilities and their families across the life cycle – Veronika Wodsak-ILO (12 mn)*
* Engagement of organizations of persons with disabilities for social protection reform:
  + *Social protection matters: strengthening OPDs engagement in social protection during COVID 19 crisis (African Disability Forum Call for Action, South Asia OPDs report on SP response and national workshops) – Amba Salelkar - IDA (7 mn)*
  + *Truly leaving no one behind: persons with intellectual disabilities engage in social protection debate Raymond HUI Wai Man - Chosen Power (People First Hong Kong) (7mn)*
* Towards National disability registries and inclusive information systems for case management, policy planning and disaster response
  + *Inclusive social protection information systems - Valentina Barca, SPACE FCDO-GIZ-DFAT helpdesk (7mn)*
  + *Better identification of persons with disabilities and their support requirements* 
    - *Rwanda’s Disability Management Information System initiative - Marcel Nkurayija, National Council of Persons with Disabilities (7mn)*
    - *Cambodia’s accessible app-based disability assessment – Mr Malyno (to be confirmed) Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation or UNICEF country office-TBC (7mn):*
    - *Identifying persons with disabilities and their needs in humanitarian context -Manuel Roth - CBM Global (5 mn)*

1. Core message addressed by organisations of persons with disabilities in their address to the participants fo the 2019 Asia-Pacific Social Protection Week [↑](#footnote-ref-1)