



Second Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness Terms of Reference Consultant

Summary:

The World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB), supported by the International Disability Alliance (IDA), is hiring a highly skilled consultant to support the development of its Second Global Report on the situation of persons with deafblindness. The 2nd Global Report will be critical to strengthen the common ground and understanding achieved with the [First Report](#), and consolidate it with evidence from different regions and perspectives from persons with deafblindness and their representative organisations, as well as service providers and other allies. The 2nd global report aims to serve as an advocacy tool for WFDB members at national and regional levels. As persons with deafblindness have been largely overlooked in responses aimed at fostering inclusion of persons with disabilities, the report intends to provide concrete tracks on how this can be achieved, and to stimulate partnerships and collaborations to advance the rights of persons with deafblindness, in particular in the Global South.

About WFDB and IDA:

The **World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB)**, established in 2001, is a global non-governmental advocacy organization by and for persons with deafblindness. Consisting of 75 national and associated deafblind organizations from 62 different countries in all parts of the world, WFDB is recognized as the official and legitimate global voice of persons with deafblindness.

WFDB aims to improve the quality of life of persons with deafblindness worldwide; focusing on achieving equal rights and equal possibilities in all areas of society; to be a forum for exchanging knowledge and experiences regarding deafblindness; to promote international solidarity among organizations by and for people with deafblindness through cooperation, organizational development, capacity building and advocacy.

The **International Disability Alliance (IDA)** was established in 1999 as a network of global and, since 2007, a regional disabled people's organizations (DPOs). The aim of IDA is to promote the effective and full implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) worldwide, as well as ensuring compliance with the CRPD within the UN system, through the active and coordinated involvement of representative organizations of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and international levels.

Background:

In 2018, The World Federation of the Deafblind (WFDB) issued its [First Global Report on Deafblindness](#). This global report on the situation of persons with deafblindness initiated a dialogue between international disability rights and development stakeholders, and is based on research undertaken by WFDB which combines the largest population-based analysis of persons with deafblindness conducted to date (disaggregation of 22 population-based surveys from low, middle and high-income countries), an academic literature review, two surveys conducted among WFDB members and partners and Sense International.

Building upon the findings of the first report, WFDB aims to develop a second report to consolidate the findings on *what* the situation of persons with disabilities looks like across different regions and contexts as well as to provide recommendations on *how* to respond to this situation and advance the rights of persons with deafblindness. As the first Global Report identified major gaps in the inclusion of persons with deafblindness in the implementation of core human rights, the CRPD and the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2nd Global report will place a stronger focus on case studies, good practices and recommendations on the



thematic areas covered in the first report, and in particular on the three most urgent matters:

- 1) Lack of universal and national *recognition* of deafblindness as a distinct disability in law and practice.
- 2) Lack of *required support and deafblind interpretation services*, in particular, interpreter-guides, and adequate public funding to ensure proper support and full integration in education, work and community life.
- 3) Need for *additional research* on the issues concerning persons with deafblindness, including causes, age of onset, health status and access to healthcare, social participation and wellbeing, quality of work and education, etc.

Methodology and tentative timeline for the 2nd Global Report:

The 2nd Global Report will be developed with:

- Strategic guidance, validation and oversight by the Board of WFDB with 3 major steps: (1) review of progress with members of the WFDB Executive Council (Geneva, November 2021); (2) review of a draft report with preliminary findings by WFDB Executive Council by February 2022 and (3) discussion of the findings in groups and final validation at the Helen Keller Conference in May 2022
- Evidence review, analysis, further evidence collection and report write-up by consultants, with 2 types of analyses: quantitative analysis of additional datasets and analysis and documentation of good practices/ case studies
- A small coordination group led by Rune Jensen (WFDB Policy Advisor), will meet regularly to review the progress of the report and discuss methodological adaptations as needed. The group will involve the consultants, IDA Secretariat staff, etc
- A wider advisory support group will be established involving the coordination group as well as additional partners to provide technical and strategic guidance and facilitate outreach to persons with deafblindness and collection of information: involving Sense International, DBI, relevant IDDC members, etc

Tentative steps for development of the 2nd Global Report:

1. Development of ToRs and recruitment of consultants (WFDB, IDA) – *June 2021*
2. Consolidation of the 2nd Global Report concept note (WFDB, IDA) – *June 2021*
3. Set-up and coordinate regular meetings of the Coordination Group and Advisory Group (WFDB/ Rune) – *July 2021/May 2022*
4. Elaborate a review grid to map evidence required for the 2nd Report (linked to 7 priority areas: age/ sex/ geographic locations and cross-cutting issues such as participation of persons with deafblindness, access to support services etc.) (consultant, with guidance from the Coordination Group) – *July 2021*
5. Conduct a literature/ desk review to identify existing evidence/ good practices/ case studies and map gaps (potential sources: reports by WFDB¹, WFDB members, SI, DBI, IDDC members, other relevant service providers, CRPD Concluding Observations, HRC Special Procedures, OHCHR, relevant documents pertaining to ageing, GDS commitments, google stats on occurrence of persons with deafblindness) – methodology to be discussed proposed by the consultants, validated with the Advisory Group – *July/August 2021*

¹ Including case studies documented by WFDB under ongoing projects (Inclusion Works, NORAD, SHAPES: covering access to employment, ageing and deafblindness, access to assistive technology)



6. Analyse occurrence of references to persons with deafblindness in human rights jurisprudence especially since the launch of the 1st Global Report (consultant) – *July/August 2021*
7. Launch a survey to identify further examples of good practices in areas where there are gaps (consultant with inputs from the Advisory Group) – *August/September 2021*
8. Select most relevant case studies to document more in depth, from the perspective of both professionals/ support service providers & organisations and of persons with deafblindness to collect good practices (interviews to be conducted by the consultant with support from Advisory Group members) – *September/October 2021*
9. Discuss preliminary findings and validation of the report in *November 2021* in Geneva and organize consultations with SHAPES partners, WHO and OHCHR/ HRC as relevant for feedback and to create interest in upcoming report
10. Drafting of the report integrating quantitative and qualitative parts (consultants, by February 2022 for review by WFDB Executive Council) – *November/December 2021*
11. Coordinate the review, discussion and validation of the report at WFDB General Assembly (WFDB, at HK Conference in May 2022) – *January/February/March 2022*
12. If the time and situation allows it, additional consultations might be organized with WFDB members during the period *July 2021-May 2022* through national workshops, or virtual focus group discussions - depending on opportunities over the period

Objective of the consultancy

The purpose of the consultancy is to provide expertise and coordination support to ensure the participatory, qualitative and timely production of the 2nd Global Report on the Situation of Persons with Deafblindness, under the leadership of WFDB and with contributions from partners.

Timeframe: an estimated 28 working days over the period July 2021- April 2022



Main tasks, expected deliverables and indicative timeline

Activity (NB. relate to the above methodology)	Deliverable	Timeline	Number of days
1. Take part in Coordination Group and Advisory Group regular meetings	Technical and methodological inputs and expertise	July 2021/ Feb 2022	4
2. Elaborate a review grid to map evidence required for the 2nd Report	An accessible review grid is developed	June 2021	1
3. Conduct a literature/ desk review to identify existing evidence/ good practices/ case studies and map gaps) – methodology to be discussed proposed by the consultant, validated with the Advisory Group	A short document (1-2 pages) describing the methodology. A report (max 10 pages) with the findings from the desk review using the grid to map gaps	July/August 2021	5
4. Analyse occurrence of references to persons with deafblindness in human rights jurisprudence especially since the launch of the 1st Global Report	A database with the collected references and analysis of findings	July/August 2021	2
5. Production and launch a survey to identify further examples of good practices in areas where there are gaps (with inputs from the Advisory Group)	Survey questionnaire Analysis of survey findings	August/Sept 2021	5
6. Conduct interviews to select most relevant case studies to document more in depth, from the perspective of both professionals/ support service providers & organisations and of persons with deafblindness to collect good practices (with support from Advisory Group members)	Comprehensive reports of selected case studies	Sept/October	4
7. Drafting of the report integrating quantitative and qualitative parts	Draft report	Dec 2021/ Jan/Feb 2022	5
8. If the time and situation allows it, contribute to additional consultations with WFDB members through national workshops, or virtual focus group discussions	Draft with findings from additional consultations to integrate in the report	During the period	2
TOTAL estimated number of days			28 days



Qualifications

- Strong academic research background and experience in the use of quantitative and qualitative methods
- Previous experience working with persons with disabilities in a development context
- Knowledge of Human Rights and persons with disabilities
- Excellent writing skills in English
- Teamwork and good coordination skills
- Previous experience working with persons with deafblindness and their representative organisations would be considered a strong asset.

Process for applying

Budget:

- Applicants are invited to submit a budget/quotation within their proposal.
- Applicants are invited to detail the study trips and additional expenses needed to deliver each activity. Those travels and additional expenses will be evaluated by IDA Selection Committee. All travel costs arising will be covered by IDA as per IDA travel policy.

Please send a letter of interest, CV and a detailed proposal (with budget/quotation) to consultancy@ida-secretariat.org latest by **8 July 2021**.

Note: The subject line of the e-mail should be «**Application for WFDB Consultancy**»

Contracting and Remuneration:

- A consultancy contract (as per Swiss law) will be signed between the selected consultant(s) and IDA.
- Applicants are invited to submit a copy of their passport and commercial/consultant registration/tax numbers. Only applicants with valid commercial and/or consultant registration and/or tax numbers will be considered.
- Payments will be made in several instalments and upon successful completion of the deliverables and submission of invoices.