GUIDELINES

for mainstreaming disability and social
inclusion in aid projects

2018

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Preface

Mario Giro, Deputy Minister
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These guidelines are an important component of the new governance of Italian Development Aid set out by Italian law no. 125/2014. The law results from a reform process which outlined the perimeter of public aid for development and redefined the aims of public aid, identifying sustainable development, the eradication of poverty, the promotion of human rights - including gender equality and equal opportunities -, peace-making and conflict prevention as its key strategic objectives.

Disability therefore continues to play an important role in the goals of the new law and, as a result, it is indeed universally present in the thematic priorities of the three-year programming and policy planning document that outlines the strategic reference framework for the entire Italian aid system.

Legislation has assigned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation a central role as the party responsible for the strategic guidance and coordination of all the national aid players. The Directorate General for Development Cooperation has also been invested with a crucial role, as the party responsible for:analysing and planning the policies and developing programming guidelines with reference to the Countries and the areas of intervention; providing political representation in the international organisations and in bilateral relations; managing policy coherence and making proposals regarding voluntary contributions to the international organisations, emergency interventions and soft loans aimed at encouraging private sector involvement.

The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, in its capacity as the new technical structure for managing aid initiatives, under the political responsibility, supervision and control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, has been assigned the - just as crucial - task of completing the process of identification and appraisal of the programs, preparing calls for proposals,

managing the effective execution of the projects, monitoring and evaluating activities and managing accountability.

This paper is therefore not only fruit of the excellent partnership between DGDC and IADC in their new capacities, but also and especially of the essential contribution made by all the public administrations and the administrations of civil society competent for and interested in mainstreaming disability.

A great deal of work has been done based on previous 2010 Guidelines and as a result, many important outcomes have been achieved. This paper is therefore not only the endpoint of a fruitful pathway embarked upon by Italian Aid, but also a new launching pad towards the assignment of an increasingly central role for persons with disabilities in every aspect of life, by guaranteeing equal opportunities and full rights.

Presentation

Laura Frigenti, Director of the
Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

The aim of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, established with Italian Law no. 125 of 11 August 2014, is to increase the effectiveness of Italian aid and contribute to sustainable development in the partner countries, reducing all forms of poverty and inequality.

The Italian Development holds a significant track record in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, and the Agency intends to continue along this pathway, as development can only be achieved by promoting freedom of choice and equal opportunities through an inclusive perspective.

As indicated by the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, it is acknowledged that disability results from the interaction between person's characteristics and the environment in which he or she lives and operates. It therefore becomes important to remove the various types of barriers that impede those with disabilities from exercising their rights, and this must be done through the firm commitment of all the members of society.

The involvement of the institutions, of civil society and of the business world is particularly important in contributing to create usable products and services that enable persons with disabilities to study, work and live without discrimination in the community to which they belong.

Due to their interdependent and multi-dimensional nature, the Sustainable Development Goals indicate the pathway to be taken if we are to design societies that are more inclusive and respectful of the rights, which universally apply to all the sectors of development.

With this objective in mind, it is crucial for us to exploit the multitude of actors

already working in our country in order to adopt a participatory aid policy, in which all players must interact and play their specific roles to the full.

This calls for the construction of strong partnerships and alliances between bilateral and multilateral agencies and the civil society organisations with a particular focus on the associations of persons with disabilities, in the belief that sharing know-how and life experiences can help foster appropriate and sustainable projects.

I am therefore grateful to the task team that developed these Guidelines. They are designed to provide operating instructions based on the best national, European and international experiences and practices for improving the efficiency of the aid provided by Italian aid, with reference to the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities.

Summary

Acronyms

IADC	IADC Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
CBID	Community Based Inclusive Development
CRPD	Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DGDC	Directorate General for Development Cooperation
ECOSOCUN	Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
ICF	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
MFAIC	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
OPD	Organisations of persons with disabilities
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Introduction

The Italian Development Aid has always been focused on promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. The Guidelines on disability were adopted in 2002. Later, following the signing of the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD) by Italy in 2007 and its subsequent ratification in 2009, the Italian Development Aid mapped and analysed its initiatives in the field of disability. The resulting data were collected in the report "Disability, International Aid and Development - The experience of Italian Aid from 2000 to 2008", which contains a detailed account of the investments made by the Italian Development Aid.

In 2010 the "Guidelines for the introduction of the theme of disability in the context of the policies and activities of Italian Aid" and in 2013 the "Italian Aid Disability Action Plan", an operational tool for their application, were adopted.

The Action Plan for Disabilities envisages 5 areas of intervention: i) policies and strategies; ii) inclusive project planning and design; iii) accessibility and usability of environments, goods and services; iv) humanitarian aid and emergency situations; v) promotion of the experience and skills of the civil society and enterprises.

Since 2013, with a view to implementing the actions envisaged by the Action Plan, Italian Aid has launched thematic task teams involving institutions and civil society representatives.

The task teams developed specific tools for the formulation of the initiatives in the sector. Reference is made to the following documents, issued in 2015[1]:

- "Inclusive education and development aid" which contains the Italian approach and the projects in this field;

- "Guidelines for accessibility of buildings financed by the Italian Aid" developed to provide the reference standards for the new construction and renovation realized during the projects, to enable persons with disabilities to access services and facilities;

- "Humanitarian aid and disability Handbook" which, by recalling the principles and the reference international legislative framework regarding humanitarian

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[1] https://www.aics.gov.it/?page_id=8521

aid and disability, illustrates how to consider the specific vulnerabilities in emergency contexts and presents the practical actions aimed at including disability in humanitarian aid programmes.

In 2016, with a view to drawing up an updated overview of the commitments in the sector and planning the future actions, a map of the funded initiatives was included in the report: "Inclusion, Disability, International Aid – The experience of Italian Aid 2009-2014".

In line with the 2030 Agenda, and based on the work performed over the last decade, a task team was formed in May 2017, charged with drafting this paper with a view to: providing an updated reference view of the sector, suggesting approaches and strategies and providing useful recommendations for including the theme of the rights of persons with disabilities in the projects of the Agency for Development Aid.

The paper provides indications for ensuring that the projects in the sector aim to eradicate or reduce the cultural, structural or environmental barriers that may impede access to persons with physical, mental, sensory and/or intellectual disabilities.

National and International reference frameworks

National Overview

Three-year Italian Development Aid programming and policy planning document

The three-year Italian Development Aid programming and policy planning document[2] provides the strategic reference framework for the entire Italian aid system (**article 12** of reform law **125/2014**). It indicated the objectives and criteria of intervention, as well as the geographic and sector-based priorities developed in line with the pursuance of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. The theme of disability is present throughout the document, in all the various sectors of intervention and, in particular, in the areas of emergency, education, health, gender policies, support for democracy and governance. The objective of the document is to ensures the coherence of the policies in the sector on national and international level.

National Observatory on the Condition of Persons with Disabilities

As one of the tools for programming and monitoring disability policies implemented in Italy, the National Observatory on the Condition of Persons with Disabilities, commissioned by the law which ratifies and executes the CRPD[3], promotes this objective, by encouraging the coordination of the institutions and the active participation of organisations of persons with disabilities.

The Observatory, within the scope of its activities, can identify:

- forms of transposition of the commitments undertaken with the Disability Action Plan issued by Italian Aid in 2013, based on the terms of Line 7 of International Aid of the two-year government action plan for the sector, appropriately disclosing the same (article 35 of CRPD) in tandem with the Interministerial Committee of Human Rights (ICHR);

2 http://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2017/03/doc_triennale_2016-2018_-_finale_approvato.pdf

3 The law which ratifies and executes the UN Convention [Cf. Article 3, 5 paragraph d) Law no. 18 of 3.3.2009. http://www.osservatoriodisabilita.it/index.php?lang=it

-   forms of engagement of its members, to ensure that the experience gained in Italy can be disclosed on an international level and used to good effect in aid initiatives.

Annual Report on aid development activities

The Annual Report, envisaged by Article 12 of Law 125, will report on the actions taken and the results achieved by the Italian institutions as part of the aid activities focused on mainstreaming disability.

The Report will contain data collected as a result of monitoring the mainstreaming of disability in the SDGs, also based on the recommendations provided by the Committee for the rights of persons with disabilities in relation to the Italian Report on the implementation of the CRPD.

International Overview

The approval of the CRPD - Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities of the UN (13.12.2006)[4] significantly influenced the international debate and the policies for protecting the rights of this section of the population (approximately one billion according to the WHO, 15% of the world population), introducing technical and cultural innovations. The Convention focuses on the importance of respecting human rights and specifies that disability is a condition which occurs based on the relationship between an individual, with his or her own unique characteristics, and their physical and social environments.

The CRPD was ratified by 174 countries[5] (90% of the member states of the United Nations), therefore adopting the bio-psycho-social model of disability as a standard, based on respect for human rights. Meanwhile, the States strived to monitor its application by regularly drawing up reports on its implementation (article 35), also making reference to specific areas of intervention[6]. This Report can be considered alongside the one drafted by the civil society (*shadow report*).

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4 http://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/disabilita-e-non-autosufficienza/focus-on/Convenzione-ONU/Documents/Convenzione%20ONU.pdf

5 http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx

6 General observations were made by the UN Committee on women with disabilities, non-discrimination, inclusive education and independent life

European policies

The European Union followed up its commitment to European citizens with disabilities (approximately 80 million) with action, defining a disability strategy (2010-2020)[7] that aims to remove all types of barriers[8] which prevent persons with disabilities from exercising their rights. The Commission identified eight main areas of action: accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education and training, social protection, health, and external action (the latter includes both international aid and humanitarian aid). These areas were selected based on their potential to contribute to the overall objectives of the Strategy and of the CRPD, the relative policy documents of the EU institutions and of the Council of Europe, as well as to the outcomes of the EU Disability Action Plan 2003-2010, and to the public consultations with the Member States and the stakeholders.

During 2015, under the Latvian Presidency, the European Council implemented the document "*Council conclusions on disability-inclusive disaster management*" which outlined the actions taken by the States and the European Commission to ensure that emergency interventions cater for the needs of persons with disabilities[9].

In 2016 the new 2017-2023 Strategy of the Council of Europe was approved, namely: "*Human rights: a reality for all*". The strategy launched during the Nicosia Conference, under the Cypriot Presidency of the Council of Europe (March 2017), includes five priority areas of intervention: equality and non-discrimination, awareness raising, accessibility, equal recognition before the law and freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse. The document also considers five themes relevant to all areas: participation, aid and coordination, universal design and reasonable accommodation, gender equality perspective, multiple discrimination and education and training. Based on the suggestion proposed by Italy, references to the themes of social responsibility and the development goals were also considered.

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7 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52010DC0636&from=IT

8 Eurobarometer 2006: 91% of European citizens believe that more money should be spent to remove the physical barriers that impede persons with disabilities. The EU is currently developing an accessibility act which aims to make the market accessible to European citizens with disabilities.

9 http://www.consilium.europa.eu/register/en/content/out/?&typ=ENTRY&i=ADV&DOC_ID=ST-6450-2015-INIT

In 2017, the European Union signed the New Consensus on Development "*Our world, our dignity, our future*"[10] aligning its development policies with the 2030 Agenda. It is important to note that Italy played a crucial role during the negotiations for the New Consensus on Development to ensure that it focused more closely on the theme of disability[11].

The United Nations

The United Nations have progressively introduced the theme of disability into their most important initiatives staged over the last few years. In 2015 the *Sendai framework for risk disaster reduction*[12] set forth the need to consider this theme in the prevention, emergency aid and initial reception projects staged, by actively involving organisations of persons with disabilities in all the phases of the emergency.

In May 2016, the Istanbul "Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action" was approve[13] during the Humanitarian Summit..

The 2030 Agenda

In September 2015, the 2030 Agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals attributed a new, central role to the theme of mainstreaming disability in international development strategies. References to persons with disabilities are made in many of the Goals: no. 4 (education), no. 8 (employment), no. 10 (inequality) and no. 11 (sustainable cities), all closely linked by their same approach to human rights.

It is important to stress how the goals and their targets depend on one another, specifically with reference to education, health, violence, especially gender-related violence, emergency, accessibility and training.

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10 "*The EU and its Member States will continue to play a key role in ensuring that no one is left behind wherever people live and regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and gender identity, migration status or other factors. This approach includes addressing the multiple discriminations faced by vulnerable people and marginalised groups*". The new European Consensus on development "Our world, our dignity, our future", Council of the European Union, 19 May 2017

11 http://www.consilium.europa.eu/it/press/press-releases/2017/05/19-european-consensus-on-development/

12 http://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

13 http://humanitariandisabilitycharter.org/

Sustainable Development Goals and Disability

Paragraph 19 - reaffirms the importance of all the international instruments relating to human rights(including the CRPD) and the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including persons with disabilities

Paragraph 23 - affirms that all people who are vulnerable must be empowered (citing persons with disabilities) in terms of their capacities and their participation in society And that the member States must take further effective measures and actions to remove obstacles and constraints, strengthen support and meet the special needs of people, also when they are living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies. All people (including those with disabilities)

Paragraph 25 - must "have access to life-long learning opportunities that help them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society".

Goal 4 (Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning). Target 4.5 pledges "by 2030, to eliminating gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities". Target 4.a pledges to "build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all".

Goal 8 (Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all). Target 8.5 declares that "by 2030, we must achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value ".

Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries). Target 10.2 envisages that "by 2030, (we must) empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status".

Goal 11 (Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable). Target 11.2 states that "by 2030, (we need to) provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons". And Target 11.7 also underlines that "by 2030, we must provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities".

Goal 16 (Justice and peace). It aims to provide access to justice for all and ensure the possibility of witnessing respect for the rights of persons with disabilities and the principle of non-discrimination.

Regarding the Systematic Activities in the multi-stakeholder Partenariat, Target 17.18 reaffirms that "by 2020, (we must) enhance capacity-building support to developing countries (...) to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts".

Paragraph 74 - "Follow-up and review processes at all levels will be guided by the following principles: "g) They will be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by country-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts".

Strategies and approaches

L'AICS indirizza le sue attività nel pieno rispetto dei diritti umani, promuovendo iniziative volte a combattere i pregiudizi culturali e lo stigma e a favorire l'inclusione sociale.

Le strategie e gli approcci adottati mirano in particolare a tutelare i diritti delle persone con disabilità tenendo conto della multi-discriminazione cui spesso sono soggette.

In tale direzione particolare attenzione sarà data a:

Universal Design

In line with the "Universal Design" strategy envisaged by Article 2 of the CRPD, the initiatives must include:

- the design of products, structures, programmes and services that can be accessed and used as much as possible by all kinds of people, without any specialised adaptations or design processes. This approach does not exclude other devices designed to support particular groups of persons with disabilities where these are necessary;

- the appropriate use of the national and international standards regarding accessibility and the usability of new technologies (accessibility of websites, work stations, e-books and digital documents, etc.), taking into account the technological shortcomings that may exist in developing countries;

- compliance with the "Guidelines to the Italian Aid accessibility standards" for new constructions and renovations carried out during its projects, to make said structures fully usable for everyone, including persons with disabilities.

Community-based inclusive development

This WHO strategy (*Community Based Inclusive Development*, CBID, formerly *Community based rehabilitation*[14]) calls for the engagement of public entities responsible for providing essential services and therefore for ensuring that persons with disabilities can exercise their rights in the various areas: health, education, work, social services, etc. This strategy aims to empower persons with disabilities

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14 https://www.iddcconsortium.net/resources-tools/cbr-guidelines-tool-community-based-inclusive-development

and their organisations by promoting disability mainstreaming, especially in the rural and disadvantaged areas in which the Aid projects are carried out.

Mainstreaming

This approach envisages the universal integration of themes regarding disability in all social, economic, legislative, political and cultural policies and practices. It advocates including persons with disabilities among the beneficiaries of all the international aid activities, envisaging appropriate forms of support for the fruition of their rights and the definition of projects related to their needs.

Twin track approach

The twin track approach, on one hand advocates intensifying the efforts made to favour disability mainstreaming policies within aid initiatives and at the same time, launching initiatives especially designed for persons with disabilities, tailored to cater for their specific requirements.

Bio-psycho-social disability model

The bio-psycho-social approach defines disability as the consequence or result of a relationship between health, personal factors and environmental factors. In this sense the tool of the ICF (*International Classification of Functioning disability and health* - WHO 2001) must be considered a conceptual reference for inclusive development, in line with the definition of disability of the CRPD.

Shared, interdisciplinary approach

In pursuing the objective of achieving an inclusive society, planning and research activities founded on a participative, inter-disciplinary approach provide a strategic methodological tool. This can be used to design proposals that impact social cultures, policies and practices with a view to emancipating persons with disabilities. An inclusive society can only be developed if the various stakeholders and all the citizens involved are prepared to make the environments capable of, and geared towards, including every single individual, taking into account their personal characteristics and the sphere of their social life.

Inclusive development and reasonable accommodation

The inclusive development approach provides added value in aid projects, as it focuses in particular on the participation of the Organisations of Persons with Disabilities. The participation of the OPDs can be ensured by producing documentation in accessible formats, also with the aid of new technologies. Additionally, creating kits containing specific tools for those who work in the sector is another useful form of support that could be considered.

This approach also advocates the use of appropriate reasonable accommodation[15], designed to ensure the participation of persons with disabilities in the funded activities, both as "participants" and "beneficiaries".

Areas of intervention

The lack of data available regarding the number of persons with disabilities and their lifestyles makes planning projects in the various sectors a difficult task. There is therefore a need to analyse the contexts regularly (baseline studies) if possible, involving persons with disabilities and their organisations in the process.

There are many areas of intervention for aid projects that concern disability. Some examples are provided below:

Training

Training on the themes of disability and development will be promoted for the staff of the IADC and for the entities that stage aid initiatives with reference to CSOs, decentralised aid organisations, Universities, businesses and the private sector, with the involvement of the OPDs.

This activity includes university and post-graduate courses on human rights and inclusive design, also in emergency situations.

Particular attention will be paid to training on how to empower persons with

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15 It advocates making the necessary and appropriate amendments and adaptations that fail to impose an disproportionate or excessive load, where these are required in particular cases, to ensure that persons with disabilities can benefit from and exercise all their human rights and essential liberties on a par with others.

disabilities provided to stakeholders (including government authorities), professionals in the healthcare sector, those who provide care within the family or professionally (caregivers) and employers.

Raising community awareness

Raising community awareness is still a key element for favouring social inclusion: the actions designed to raise awareness on themes regarding the rights of persons with disabilities contained in the CRPD will therefore be reinforced and the materials will be produced in accessible formats.

This activity will aim in particular to educate and involve families and the entire community, encourage them to support and favour the inclusion of persons with disabilities and prevent all forms of isolation and segregation, especially for children and women with disabilities, who are often the victims of violence and abuse.

The awareness-raising activity can also engage businesses interested in using new technologies to overcome communication barriers.

Initiatives (manuals and guides designed to make goods and services accessible and usable) will be promoted in the sectors of sport, cultural heritage, tourism services and recreational activities, also by opening information desks and creating websites, supported by Italy's experience in this field (standards envisaged by Italian legislation, Law 4/2004).

Advocacy

It is essential to provide support for advocacy actions in the countries in which the Agency operates, by:

- supporting the implementation of inclusive and de-institutionalisation policies, also drawing from Italy's experience in this field;
- allocating specific economic resources for guiding and supporting the rights of persons with disabilities;
- helping to develop the skills of the Organisations of persons with disabilities to favour their role as advocates.

Education

In education, support and reinforcement will be provided for all activities that aim to:

- facilitate access to quality education for persons with disabilities from pre-school age to University (children and teens);

- encourage persons with disabilities to complete their studies (retention), which can be guaranteed by encouraging private parties and universities involved in the projects to offer scholarships;

- promote the drafting and dissemination of the *Index for Inclusion* to favour the development of "inclusive schools" with the involvement of all the interested local players;

- promote the training of teachers, school staff, parents and the local community with a view to creating an inclusive education system, also based on the teaching practices adopted by the *European Agency for Special Needs and Inclusive Education*;

- promote the use of tools that facilitate children's/teens' learning processes, and in particular the use of new teaching technologies that favour academic prowess.

Particular attention must be paid to the education and training of migrants (children and adults) with disabilities, also taking into consideration Italy's forty years of experience in integrating persons with disabilities in schools.

Employment

In this context, and to create the conditions for everyone to be able to work with dignity, it is imperative to:

- favour initiatives (laws, policies, plans) that make it easier for persons with di-sabilities to access employment/production activities for a decent wage, also by involving the business world;

- offer specific financing schemes that support self-employment and the establi-shment of cooperative forms of business;

- promote the principles of the "Business and Human Rights" (2011 ILO) and of Corporate Social Responsibility;
- raise the awareness of businesses in order to increase the employment of persons with disabilities;
- sustain initiatives that favour the employment of resources through training activities based on new IT technologies, and in particular those aimed at young people and women with disabilities.

Health

The promotion and protection of good health entails achieving the wellness of one and all, without discrimination, by:

- preventing risk factors in relation to the occurrence of functional limitations (congenital malformations, rare illnesses, illnesses during pregnancy, etc.);
- favouring the early diagnosis of disability, especially deafness and the risks of blindness, also by launching infant screening programmes;
- promoting the right to access basic healthcare, care and rehabilitative services, in particular those provided for non-contagious chronic illnesses, sexual and reproductive health and mental health;
- providing training for social and health workers designed to reinforce the territorial multi-agency networks in response to domestic violence and abuse perpetrated against particularly vulnerable people.

Institutional reinforcement and empowerment of civil society

The Agency will provide instructions to ensure that the financing proposals subject to the approval of the decision-making bodies:

- continue to see institutional capacity-building as a priority for promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, along with the preparation, review and application of reference laws;
- reinforce the actions designed to empower the OPDs to favour their participation in the decision-making processes that concern them.

Prevention, support and protection for persons with disabilities who are victims of violence

With a view to helping protect children, young people and women with disabilities from all forms of violence, including gender-based violence and with the purpose of achieving a high level of health and wellness protection, support will be provided for actions designed to:

- develop support programmes for victims of violence, and particularly women with disabilities;
- support the creation of structures for protecting victims of violence;
- inform and educate local operators on the prevention of violence and how to support victims (local authorities, police forces, healthcare workers, teachers, educators, NGOs and OPDs, etc.);
- support actions designed to raise awareness about the theme;
- disseminate the knowledge, information and good practices acquired and designed;
- create materials for raising community awareness, also available in accessible formats;
- perform studies and research on violence and its impact;
- support peer counselling methodologies to foster the empowerment of women with disabilities against violence.

The new players of Italian Law 125

In compliance with Italian Law 125/2014 (articles 26 and 27), partnerships with the civil society organisations (CSOs) will be encouraged, as well as those established with other no-profit parties and with businesses, with a view to creating initiatives within the sector.

The Civil Society Organisations

Article 32 of the CRPD envisages the involvement of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities in international aid activities, guaranteeing them equal opportunities

for participation. Indeed, the sustainability of the CRPD in developing countries is mostly promoted and developed by the OPDs, representing persons with disabilities and their families to whom appropriate support is provided as part of the activities and projects.

Support will therefore be provided for:

- actions that systematically involve the CSOs and OPDs, aimed at defining policies, and formulating, managing and evaluating aid programmes;

- projects specifically aimed at persons with disabilities, their organisations and networks;

- initiatives that envisage a wider sphere of involvement of CSOs which have implemented, applied and promoted the relevant international policies and/or have acquired specific skills in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, by promoting actions of coordination and local synergies with local and international stakeholders.

The business world

Law 125 recommends identifying mechanisms that favour a responsible involvement of the business world in the various areas (employment, training, supply of civil works and services, technical support, etc.) in line with the principles of the *UN Global Compact*, of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and of the *Business and Human Rights*[16].

Specifically, the active involvement of the business world is to be encouraged for the:

- design and creation of accessible working contexts -also through the use of new technologies (ICT)- which truly favour the inclusion of persons with disabilities in employment and help break down the barriers that often prevent them from accessing training, employment and career opportunities;

- promotion of working activities for persons or associations of persons with disabilities;

- design/creation of inclusive business activities for the production of goods and services designed to improve the living conditions of persons with disabilities.

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16 https://www.business-humanrights.org/

Initiatives staged in situations of emergency and fragility

In emergency situations, the condition of persons with disabilities is rendered even more fragile by the catastrophic event. Additionally, the growing rise in the number of refugees, displaced persons, returnees, and migrants (almost 66 million in 2016[17]) – makes the need to assist these populations, which often include persons with disabilities, even more urgent. In this area there is a need to:

- sustain initiatives compliant with the indications provided in the Handbook "Humanitarian aid and disability" adopted by Italian Aid in 2015 and the paper "*Guidance on integrated approach to victim assistance*" of 2016[18];

- carry out and sustain actions of advocacy and awareness-raising in Europe and internationally regarding the needs of persons with disabilities in situations of emergency and fragility, and in humanitarian aid and de-mining projects;

- train the staff who operate in situations of emergency and fragility on the methods for defining the needs of persons with disabilities and for ensuring their inclusion in humanitarian aid and de.mining projects, in line with the main reference standards[19];

- stage targeted projects that benefit persons with disabilities, geared to assisting the victims of conflicts and natural disasters and ensuring their protection and safety, also by responsibilising the communities and institutions on all levels and enhancing their competences and resilience;

- favouring the mainstreaming of disability in all projects, also by way of IADC identifying and forming national Focal Points in the countries in which the Agency operates;

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17 UNHCR "Global trends. Forced displacement in 2016", 2017

18 The Guidance paper was developed during the Convention on cluster munition, (CCM) and focuses on the themes of victim support and aid and assistance (Australia, Chile, Italy, Austria and Iraq) with the technical support of Handicap International and the financial backing of the Australian government.

19 CRPD - Article. 11, "Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action" signed by Italy at the "*World Humanitarian Summit*" in Istanbul (WHS - 2016), "*Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*" (2015), "Conclusions of the European Council on disability-inclusive disaster management" (2015), Verona Charter (2007), "United Nations Policy on Victim Assistance in Mine Action" (2016), "*Convention on Cluster Munitions*" (CCM - 2008 Article 5), "*Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons*" (CCM – 2001 Article 8), "*Antipersonnel Mine Ban Convention*" (APMBC - 1997 Article 6).

- adapting the initial reception and support centres involved in the projects to make them accessible and usable for persons with disabilities, and equipping them with the means needed to assist them;

- collecting disaggregated statistical data on persons with disabilities in contexts of emergency and fragility, which reflect their needs and their potential;

- working closely with persons with disabilities, their families and the organisations that represent them - also by establishing task teams - and including them in the creation and management of the programmes;

- favouring the participation of persons with disabilities and of the OPDs in the activities carried out in the initial reception camps (health, education, employment, free time);

- promote an "integrated approach" in the activities designed to support the victims of mines and explosive devices, including those dedicated to raising awareness and providing information, and those focusing on victim rehabilitation.

Data collection, research, monitoring and assessment of disability policies and projects

Policies

The commitment to "leave no one behind" that characterises the 2030 Agenda entails constantly monitoring the progress made with a view to achieving the SDGs, and in particular reinforcing the systems used to collect the disaggregated data on disability used to formulate the policies implemented in the sector (Article 31 of the CRPD).

The monitoring activities performed on the policies in the sector must take into account the new international guidelines (CRPD Article 35, *Sendai Framework*, SDGs and 2030 Agenda, Disability Strategy of the European Union, *High Level Political Forum*), which envisage indicators for the SDGs, in which the theme of disability mainstreaming is clearly specified. Actions with the following objectives must therefore be staged:

- to join with other donors in reflecting on whether to allow the projects for persons with disabilities to be more clearly identified within the classification

mechanism of the OECD-DAC, taking into account that this mechanism would also provide us with a tool for monitoring the CRPD in terms of the commitments undertaken by Italy and the other States;

- to develop, in line with the contents of the 2014 OECD-DAC Peer Review, a consideration of the coherence of the policies in relation to disability, taking into account that universality is an aspect that will increasingly be the subject of closer focus on the part of the OCHSE. The role of the National Aid Council is crucial in this sense, as it has the prerogative to express an opinion on the coherence of the political choices, strategies, guidelines, scheduling, forms of intervention and their effectiveness and evaluation;

- to reinforce the focus on the activities for persons with disabilities, within multilateral aid initiatives (system of the United Nations, World Bank and regional development banks, etc.) and improve their traceability;

- to encourage meetings with the donors in each country, to promote more incisive disability mainstreaming actions in international aid programmes[20]. This activity could also include the humanitarian aid and emergency projects based on the commitments of the European Union (European Consensus on aid for development and humanitarian aid, European Disability Strategy, etc.).

The objective of the above-mentioned actions will be to verify the effective impact of the policies adopted in each country and, at the same time, to account for the resources allocated and the results achieved regarding the effectiveness of the development and the accountability towards the various stakeholders.

Projects

Within international aid projects, persons with disabilities can be encouraged to fully exercise their rights using various tools designed to foster inclusive, shared development.

In this sense, it becomes crucial for the monitoring and assessment activities to advocate: i) the involvement of persons with disabilities and their organisations; ii) the promotion and backing of partnerships with other aid agencies and Human Rights Commissions present in the partner countries, in order to create initiatives designed to favour an exchange of information and experiences.

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20 ECOSOC Resolution 2008/21.Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda.

The most important monitoring and assessment tools will include:

- carrying out accurate assessments of the background situations and baseline surveys designed to identify the needs, specific problems, inequalities and access to the services of persons with disabilities;

- appropriately collecting disaggregated data (age, gender, type of physical/ sensory/psycho-relational disability) about obstacles, barriers and discriminations regarding the access of persons with disabilities to rights, goods and services. The set of questions proposed by the *Washington City Group*[21] can constitute a useful baseline tool;

- a specific focus on conditions that involve multiple discriminations, especially those experienced by women, children and persons with refugee status. This activity must be performed in tandem with the institutions responsible for this specific area (universities, research institutes, etc.);

- the creation of opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in the field research, project monitoring and assessment activities, also by awarding scholarships;

- the dissemination of the data collected, in order to exert a positive influence on the aid policies and ensure the management response to the evaluations;

- the use of Emancipatory Disability Research[22], which envisages the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their organisations in the decision-making processes of the policies and programmes within the sector. This methodology has proven to be a useful and innovative tool, as it fosters the empowerment of persons with disabilities. It enables them to play a leading role in the process that involves generating knowledge about their condition, identifying the barriers that prevent them from participating on equal terms and consequently defining their true requirements. This methodology will generate the production of sector-specific publications in accessible formats, co-produce by the people who helped carry out the research.

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21   Washington Group on Disability Statistics, https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/washington_group/index.htm

22   A British researcher and disability activist Mike Oliver coined the term 'emancipatory disability research' to refer to a radical new approach to researching disability (Oliver, 1992) e Emancipatory Disability Research. EDR West Bank Palestine. Ramallah, EducAid, 2017.

Application of the guidelines in the disability sector

Several favourable conditions must be present in order for these guidelines to be applied in the disability sector. The first is that in the projects and initiatives staged by the Agency through the various channels, including therein the calls for proposals for the initiatives promoted or assigned, the theme of disability must be considered and evaluated in terms of a) identified targets; b) disaggregated data; c) result indicators; d) project impact.

The second condition concerns the possibility of setting up a fund known as an *accommodation fund*[23] for favouring the participation of persons with disabilities in aid projects. This instrument can be established both during the annual budget activity, based on the available economic resources, and within individual projects.

It will be important to advocate moments designed to raise awareness and provide training on various levels about the importance of using these guidelines in aid projects.

To check that they have been used and to plan future projects in the sector, the IADC will annually draw up a sector-specific Report on the funded initiatives, which will be posted on the Agency's website on accessible web pages (standards envisaged by Italian law, Law 4/2004). The Report will highlight the good practices established, with a particular focus on the following activities:

- disability mainstreaming, using the "efficiency marker" tool adopted in May 2014 by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation to identify initiatives not specifically dedicated to disability;
- ensuring compliance with the accessibility criteria envisaged by the "Guidelines on the standards of accessibility for the constructions funded by Italian Aid" of 2015.

Additionally, specific indicators could also be identified and used when evaluating the proposals for projects, funded by the Agency, also considering any elements of coherence with the other sector-specific Guidelines of the IADC (gender, minors, etc.).

23   This is a fund that can be used to cover the additional costs that must be met to guarantee the real participation of persons with disabilities in the meetings/ conventions/conferences organised by the IADC (e.g.: printouts in Braille, sign language interpreters, accessible transportation, mission of experts with disabilities for the initiatives in which the IADC participates, etc.). - See World Bank - *Social Analysis and Disability: A Guidance Note* - 2007

Webography

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

The web page of the Agency provides various publications, including the reference bibliography

http://www.aics.gov.it/?page_id=8521

A vast bibliography on humanitarian aid can be found in the volume "Vademecum Aiuti umanitari e disabilità" (Humanitarian aid and disability handbook)

http://www.aics.gov.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2015_Vademecum_disabilita.pdf

International Disability and Development Consortium

IDDC is a European network of organisations that operate in the field of international aid

https://www.iddcconsortium.net/

United Nations - Social policy and development division

The website contains international papers and initiatives, not only issued by the United Nations, linked to the theme of international aid and persons with disabilities

https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/about-us/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs-and-disability.html

Source

Source is an online documentary resource centre designed to reinforce people's ability to manage, use and create an impact using information about the theme of disability in the contexts of international and humanitarian aid. It is particularly useful for those involved in aid projects, and academics.

www.asksource.info