## Fact sheet: Disability inclusiveness of development and humanitarian aid in the **EUROPEAN UNION**

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| **The** [**Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations**](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en) **(DG ECHO) has made rapid strides to strengthen its work on disability inclusion during the last three years. If it follows through on this momentum with further improvements to incentives and reporting, and ensures its ambitions on engagement with organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) are consistently actioned throughout its delivery chains, then it would be well placed to become one of the leaders in this area in the future.****The** [**Directorate General for International Partnerships**](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/international-partnerships_en) **(DG INTPA) already demonstrates some good practice in disability inclusion, notably through its policy on accessibility in procurement. But if DG INTPA is to live up to the strong vision for disability inclusion set out in the European Consensus on Development, its internal incentives and its external engagement with DPOs would be among the many important areas to focus on.** |

**Methods used:** review of documents in the public domain ; review of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Creditor Reporting System database ; interviews with officials at the European Commission’s Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) and Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) ; exchanges with the European Disability Forum. The review took place between July and September 2020.

For important context on the scope of the work, please refer to [link to methodology document].

### **Key facts**

### **STRATEGY AND LEADERSHIP**

Clear commitments in strategy documents and leaders’ statements have a key role to play in driving the department-wide changes needed for disability inclusion.

* **Ministry in charge of international development and humanitarian action**: [Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/international-cooperation-and-development_en) (DG DEVCO) ; [Directorate General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/index_en)(DG ECHO). The [Directorate General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/about/directorate-general_en) also plays a role in Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending in countries neighbouring the European Union (EU); and the [European External Action Service](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en) has joint responsibility for coordinating ODA spending at country level. Spending through these channels amounted to around 77% of the European Institutions’ total allocable ODA spending in 2018.[[1]](#footnote-1) The analysis that follows focuses primarily on DG DEVCO and DG ECHO.
* **National strategy/policy on disability**: The 12-page [European Disability Strategy](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52010DC0636&from=EN) (2010-2020) includes external action (which covers international cooperation and humanitarian action) as one of its eight ‘areas of activity’. The EU is currently preparing the successor to the strategy – the European Disability Rights Agenda – which will be published in 2021.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* **Law on ODA:** European Union ODA spending is governed by the Treaty on the European Union (2012), and the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT&from=EN) (2012). The articles of these treaties that deal explicitly with development cooperation and humanitarian action[[3]](#footnote-3) are very brief and do not mention disability. However, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union also includes cross-cutting articles that apply to ODA as well as other kinds of spending, and these do contain explicit requirements on disability: “the Union shall aim to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation » (Article 10) and « the Council [of the EU]… may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation » (Article 19).

EU ODA spending must also comply with more detailed regulations. Key regulations include: (i) the EU budget (Multi-Annual Financial Framework); and (ii) the Humanitarian Aid Regulation (1996).[[4]](#footnote-4) The next Multi-Annual Financial Framework, covering the period 2021-2027, is currently being negotiated. The very detailed proposals relating to ODA contain only two references to disability – once in an annex, as part of a list of marginalised groups to be taken into account in certain types of geographic programmes;[[5]](#footnote-5) and once in proposals for the European Fund for Sustainable Development.[[6]](#footnote-6) The Humanitarian Aid Regulation does not refer to disability.

* **Overall strategy/policy on international cooperation and humanitarian action**: This review looked at two levels of strategies: long-term strategic visions set out in European ‘Consensus’ communications; and shorter-term action plans. The extent to which these documents considered disability varied, as shown in the table below:

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|  | Development | Humanitarian |
| Long-term consensus | The [European Consensus on Development](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf) (2017) contains 7 explicit references to disability, including a stand-alone paragraph which commits that “the European Union … will take into account the specific needs of persons with disabilities in [its] development cooperation” (p.12) | The [European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:42008X0130(01)&from=EN) (2008) contains one reference to disability, as part of a list of groups of people with ‘particular vulnerabilities’ (p.4) |
| Shorter-term action plan | DG DEVCO’s [strategic plan](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/devco-strategic-plan-2016-2020-revised_en.pdf) for 2016-2020 (75 pages) only mentions disability in the context of disability prevention through vaccination.[[7]](#footnote-7) Its [management plan](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/management-plan-devco-2019_en.pdf) for 2019 (70 pages) mentions disability once, in the context of the Spotlight Initiative to tackle violence against women and girls (p.22). | DG ECHO’s [annual priorities for 2020](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/1_en_ggopha_2020.pdf) (63 pages) contain 7 references to disability, including a commitment to work to ensure the implementation of DG ECHO’s guidance on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operations (p.7). The annual priorities document is complemented by crisis-specific strategies contained in Humanitarian Implementation Plans (HIPs), together with a Policy Annex that applies to all HIPs. The Policy Annex includes some further references to disability, which are analysed in more detail under the ‘grant management’ section below. |

* **Strategy/policy on disability in international cooperation and humanitarian action:** The EU does not yet have a stand-alone strategy or action plan on disability in international cooperation and humanitarian action. It has produced guidance documents on disability inclusion,[[8]](#footnote-8) which include some of the elements that might be found in a strategy: clearly stated ambitions (for example that “disability concerns have to be systematically mainstreamed in all programmes, regardeless of the aid modality”[[9]](#footnote-9)), and some steps towards reaching them. However, the guidance notes do not include time-bound commitments. Moreover since the note on disability-inclusive development cooperation counts neither as a policy document nor as an action plan, it does not have the same status as many of DG DEVCO’s other guidelines for ODA.[[10]](#footnote-10)
* **Charter on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action:** the European Union has endorsed the [charter](http://humanitariandisabilitycharter.org/).
* **Evidence of senior commitment to disability inclusion in international cooperation and humanitarian action:** In 2017, the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, announced in 2017 that, as of 2018, all EU-funded humanitarian partners would be required to take the needs of persons with disabilities into account in their projects.[[11]](#footnote-11)

In July 2020, Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships, made a key-note speech at the UN High Level Political Forum, in which she highlighted that tackling inequalities facing persons with disabilities was an important element of ‘building back better’ after the COVID-19 pandemic.[[12]](#footnote-12)

* **Engagement in the** [**Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network**](https://gladnetwork.net/): the European Commission is a member of the GLAD Network.
* **Other engagement on disability inclusion with international actors in the fields of development cooperation and humanitarian action**: the EU is supporting the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights to develop human rights indicators to monitor implementation of the CRPD, through the ‘Bridging the Gap’ project.[[13]](#footnote-13)

### **ENGAGEMENT WITH DPOs**

High-quality engagement with DPOs is fundamental. Not only does it make development cooperation and humanitarian action legally compliant and technically stronger in the short term. By strengthening the disability movement and making space for real participation– as the “subject of action”, not the “object of intervention”,[[14]](#footnote-14) it also contributes to the redistribution of power that is a pre-requisite for sustainable disability-inclusive development in the long-term.[[15]](#footnote-15)

* **DPO engagement in the European Institutions’ ODA**: In 2017, former Commissioner Styliandes committed that persons with disabilities and their representative organisations would be consulted in the design and implementation of EU-funded humanitarian projects.[[16]](#footnote-16) The EU’s guidance notes on disability recognise that DPOs have an important role to play in ensuring ODA spending aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: the note on development cooperation says “it is … necessary that EU staff involve … [DPOs] at all stages of the programme cycle,”[[17]](#footnote-17) while the note on humanitarian action says that strengthening the participation of DPOs in coordination mechanisms is “a key component of inclusive humanitarian action”.[[18]](#footnote-18)

At the global policy level, DPOs were consulted on the development of the guidance note on humanitarian action, although it is not clear whether this included DPOs from the Global South.[[19]](#footnote-19)

At the country policy and programme level, looking at development cooperation, research in Africa and Latin America for the Bridging the Gap project found that engagement with representative DPOs was not routine in all of the four countries studied, and that in some countries this was exacerbated by a lack of information in accessible formats.[[20]](#footnote-20) Looking at humanitarian action, the value of engaging with and involving DPOs is highlighted frequently in DG ECHO’s operational guidance on the inclusion of persons with disabilities.[[21]](#footnote-21) However the structure of the guidance and of DG ECHO’s Humanitarian Implementation Plan system is such that this is not a formal requirement on implementing partners so much as a good practice recommendation,[[22]](#footnote-22) and it remains unclear how far recipients of ECHO funding are involving DPOs in their work in practice (see also ‘grant management’ below).

Finally, in terms of opportunities for DPOs to receive EU funding, in the case of development funding the Bridging the Gap research found that DPOs from the Global South were often thwarted by the complexity of the application process.[[23]](#footnote-23) In the case of humanitarian funding, civil society organisations from outside the EU are not currently eligible to receive funding directly from DG ECHO unless they have a recognised office in a EU country.[[24]](#footnote-24)

### **INTERNAL CAPACITY**

Successfully implementing disability-inclusive development cooperation and humanitarian action requires sufficient staff with relevant skills and experience.

* **Human resources for work on disability**: DG DEVCO has around 3,300 employees.[[25]](#footnote-25) Within this number, DG DEVCO has one full-time employee responsible for promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities across EU development cooperation work.[[26]](#footnote-26) In addition, a growing network of some 90 staff have volunteered to act as disability focal points in their delegations. However, many delegations do not yet have a disability focal point.[[27]](#footnote-27) DG ECHO has around 850 employees.[[28]](#footnote-28) Within this number, two employees lead on disability work, alongside some other responsibilities, and a further seven employees do some work on disability as part of a wider protection portfolio (these thematic experts are field-based with global coverage).[[29]](#footnote-29)
* **Tools and guidance for work on disability:** Tools and guidance include: a guidance note on disability inclusion in development cooperation and an operational guidance document on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action (see above); references to disability in some sector-specific guidance (examples include guidance on early childhood education,[[30]](#footnote-30) and on child rights[[31]](#footnote-31)); an online network that shares resources on disability inclusion;[[32]](#footnote-32) and the inclusion of disability within wider interactive training on the rights-based approach (DG DEVCO).[[33]](#footnote-33) Previous studies have raised concerns that tools on human rights (for instance, the rights-based approach toolbox)[[34]](#footnote-34) did not include enough disability-specific content, and that training was not extensive enough to give staff an understanding of how to mainstream disability in practice.[[35]](#footnote-35) New webinars on human rights have been introduced since then, which seek to cover disability more extensively, and the Bridging the Gap project has created further training opportunities.[[36]](#footnote-36) To assess whether current training materials are sufficient to meet staff needs would require more in-depth research.
* **Recognition for staff work on disability:** This review did not find any evidence of specific performance incentives for staff work on disability.

### **MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING**

It is essential for management and reporting processes to create positive incentives that foster disability inclusion, and avoid perverse incentives that lead to exclusion.

* **Budgeting for disability inclusion:** DG DEVCO does not have a policy on budgeting for the costs of disability inclusion, although the official responsible for promoting disability inclusion says she would expect quality considerations including ‘leave no one behind’ to predominate over cost considerations.[[37]](#footnote-37) DG ECHO does not earmark budget for disability inclusion, because it considers earmarking counter to the ethos of mainstreaming - but DG ECHO’s guidance recognises that in principle extra costs for disability inclusion may be acceptable, if they are “justified within the programme design and contribute to responding in an inclusive manner to humanitarian needs”.[[38]](#footnote-38) It was beyond the scope of this research to assess whether DG DEVCO and DG ECHO’s implementing partners feel confident to budget for additional costs of disability inclusion in practice, but this would be a worthwhile area for further analysis.
* **Programme management:** Within DG DEVCO, the process for quality review of programme proposals offers a potentially important check point to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities have been mainstreamed. The official responsible for promoting disability inclusion reviews as many proposals as possible, and offers concrete tips on steps that could be taken to make proposals more inclusive. However, current staffing levels – just one person responsible for disability inclusion – mean that this check is not achieving its full potential, as it is not possible to review all 400 propsals submitted each year.[[39]](#footnote-39) A recent study that analysed an important step in the development of programmes – the ‘action document’ – also noted concerns that the emphasis on disability in the latest version of the action document template had been reduced.[[40]](#footnote-40) (Please see ‘grant management’ below for more details of DG ECHO processes).
* **Grant management:** In DG DEVCO, recent research for the Bridging the Gap project reviewed 275 calls for proposal from a selection of geographic and thematic programmes, which were issued between January 2014 and November 2018. It ranked the calls against a traffic light system depending on the extent to which they included persons with disabilities. It rated 67% as red, 21% as orange, and 12% as green.[[41]](#footnote-41) Though not representative of all grant spending nor of the most recent year’s awards, these results suggest there is a risk that the quality review process described above may not be sufficient to translate to disability-inclusive call guidelines in practice.

Within DG ECHO, the Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos Stylianides, announced in 2017 that, as of 2018, all EU-funded humanitarian partners would be required to take the needs of persons with disabilities into account in their projects.[[42]](#footnote-42) DG ECHO seeks to ensure that this requirement is implemented through its ‘Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP)’ process (the equivalent of calls for proposals). All HIPs share a common ‘thematic policies annex’, which includes a short section on disability inclusion and which requires that proposals « demonstrate how it is planned to identify, remove, reduce and mitigate barriers preventing meaningful access to and full and effective participation of people with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian assistance and protection programming ».[[43]](#footnote-43) HIPs also have context-specific ‘technical annexes’, which for some crises (e.g. Ukraine) include further references to disability. Staff within DG ECHO use the criteria set out in the HIP as the basis for reviewing proposals and monitoring subsequent performance on disability inclusion. While this process appears to be a promising check, it was beyond the scope of this review to examine how it is working in practice. It was noted that the requirements on disability in the HIP thematic policy annex are considerably less detailed than, say, on gender, and that while some technical annexes refer to disability, others were silent (e.g. Afghanistan).[[44]](#footnote-44) Further work would be required to establish whether this relative lack of specificity might lead applicants to miss opportunities for mainstreaming, and whether the review process is sufficiently detailed to allow any such missed opportunities to be corrected before projects begin.

(Please note that this review focused on incentives to include persons with disabilities in the work of civil society and multilateral partners. It was beyond its scope to examine incentives through other channels, e.g. ODA investments in private sector companies, but this would be an important area for future research).

* **Procurement:** According to the EU’s ‘Practical Guide’, which governs many kinds of ODA procurement carried out in the context of development cooperation, procurement should include requirements on ‘accessibility for disabled people’ (except in ‘duly justified cases’).[[45]](#footnote-45) Based on the documents reviewed for this factsheet, the policy on accessibility in procurements for humanitarian action was not clear.
* **Disaggregated data and other reporting:** In its Concluding Observations on the EU in 2015, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommended that the EU ”put in place mechanisms to disaggregate data on disability”.[[46]](#footnote-46) The EU has made some positive steps in this direction, but disability disaggregation is not yet standard. DG ECHO is developing a protection mainstreaming indicator which is likely to be introduced in 2021, and which would include disability-disaggregated data as well as more qualitative measures – and whose measurement would be legally binding like all indicators for ECHO proposals.[[47]](#footnote-47) In the meantime it “highly encourages” grantees to include disability-disaggregated data in proposals and reports.[[48]](#footnote-48) It also offers advice on alternative data sources for grantees working in environments where baseline disability data is scarce,[[49]](#footnote-49) thereby pre-empting one common issue that can deter implementers from attempting mainstreaming.[[50]](#footnote-50) Meanwhile DG DEVCO’s Development Cooperation and Results Framework says that “depending on availability and relevance, the Commission will aim to collect other relevant disaggregated data (e.g. age, income, disabilities, region etc.) depending on its feasibility.”[[51]](#footnote-51) However the Results Framework also contains multiple aggregate targets to reach a high number of people.[[52]](#footnote-52) Without compulsory disability disaggregation, there is in principle a risk that such aggregate targets could create a perverse incentive to work with those who are easiest to reach. Similarly, current proposals for the next EU budget include aggregate key performance indicators that are not broken down by disability.[[53]](#footnote-53)
* **Checks to detect and prevent ODA spending on activities that contravene the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) - e.g. forced psychiatric treatment:[[54]](#footnote-54)** In 2015, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that “EU international development funding is used to create or renovate institutional settings for the placement of persons with disabilities”.[[55]](#footnote-55) It was beyond the scope of this fact sheet to assess whether any EU ODA is still being used in this way. During one of the interviews it was suggested that strengthened training on the rights-based approach would now help control against spending that contravenes the CRPD.[[56]](#footnote-56) However, it was beyond the scope of this review to check whether all staff have sufficient familiarity with the CRPD to detect all spending that contravenes the CRPD in practice.

### **SPENDING**

Spending data shows the scale of an ODA provider’s investment in international cooperation and humanitarian action. Subject to some limitations, it also gives a snapshot of how much that ODA provider’s spending aimed to be inclusive of persons with disabilities.

* **Total Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending**: US $14.8 billion (13.0 billion Euros) in 2019.[[57]](#footnote-57)
* **Percentage of allocable ODA spending screened using the disability ‘DAC marker’ in 2018:[[58]](#footnote-58)** 77%.[[59]](#footnote-59)
* **Percentage of allocable ODA spending with disability inclusion as at least one objective in 2018**: 0.8%.[[60]](#footnote-60) (In interpreting this result, please note that reporting is based on self-assessment and there is no ex-post process to check different ODA providers’ reported results for methodological consistency). [Please refer to this link for listings of the individual projects](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ScAzNINre7nRiZqyPVgK1FJMqbVH9wUQ73ncisX471U/edit?usp=sharing) that had disability inclusion as at least one objective [please note the link contains two separate sheets].[[61]](#footnote-61)

**Annexes**

Please note: This fact sheet does not include an annex on priority countries, as the geographic scope of the EU’s development cooperation is much broader than that of most single-country bilateral ODA providers.[[62]](#footnote-62) The EU allocates development cooperation based on principles laid out in the governing regulations and the European Consensus on Development.[[63]](#footnote-63) The EU allocates humanitarian assistance based on a global needs assessment process.[[64]](#footnote-64)

# **Annex A: Key questions for future analysis and advocacy[[65]](#footnote-65)**

##### Both Directorates General

1. How will the EU ensure that the European Disability Rights Agenda fully addresses the EU’s obligations on the rights of persons with disabilities in development cooperation and humanitarian action? (Note: for more detailed recommendations on the European Disability Rights Agenda, including a proposal for an External Action Disability Action Plan, please see pp.28-30 of [this position from the European Disability Forum](http://www.edf-feph.org/sites/default/files/20201112_edf_inputeuropeandisabilityrightsagenda_revised_final_clean.pdf)).
2. According to the OECD Creditor Reporting System database, in 2018, just 0.8% allocable EU ODA spending had disability inclusion among its objectives. This is extremely low – is it accurate? If yes, does the EU agree that urgent measures are needed to increase disability inclusion in EU ODA in future? If no, how will the EU improve the reliability of its reporting in future years?

##### DG DEVCO

1. Does DG DEVCO envisage formalising its ambitions on disability inclusion in a dedicated action plan or policy document? If not, why not?
2. DG DEVCO’s guidance note on disability-inclusive development cooperation says “it is … necessary that EU staff involve … [organisations of persons with disabilities] at all stages of the programme cycle”.[[66]](#footnote-66) What steps will DG DEVCO take to ensure this is fully put into practice?
3. DG DEVCO has one full-time employee responsible for promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities, out of a total of over 3000. Does it have plans to increase this?
4. How might DG DEVCO strengthen its process for reviewing programme proposals and applications for funding, in order to ensure all proposals are disability-inclusive, before spending goes ahead?
5. Does DG DEVCO have plans to introduce mandatory disaggregation of data by disability in its Development Cooperation and Results Framework?
6. Has DG DEVCO considered making an explicit statement on the need for EU-funded programmes to budget for disability inclusion?
7. In 2015, the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities expressed concern that “EU international development funding is used to create or renovate institutional settings for the placement of persons with disabilities”.[[67]](#footnote-67) Is DG DEVCO confident that this no longer takes place?

##### DG ECHO

1. DG ECHO has taken some important steps to engage with organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) in its policy and programmes. How does it plan to build on these, to ensure that DPOs – including DPOs from the Global South – participate meaningfully in all stages of DG ECHO policy and programming? (For example: will DG ECHO require [not just encourage] its implementing partners to engage meaningfully with DPOs?)
2. DG ECHO’s Humanitarian Implementation Plans now include requirements on disability. Has DG ECHO assessed how far these requirements are consistently translating into disability inclusive interventions on the ground?
3. What is the latest progress towards introducing DG ECHO’s planned protection mainstreaming indicator (which will include the disability-disaggregated data collection)?
4. Has DG ECHO considered making an explicit statement on the need for EU-funded programmes to budget for disability inclusion?

### **Annex B: key DPO and other contacts**

### DPOs engaged in advocacy on disability inclusion in ODA: [European Disability Forum](http://www.edf-feph.org/sites/default/files/20201112_edf_inputeuropeandisabilityrightsagenda_revised_final_clean.pdf) (EDF)

* To ensure coordination with wider civil society messaging on the quantity and quality of EU ODA, advocates may also want to consider contacting [CONCORD Europe](https://concordeurope.org/).
1. The remaining 23% was channelled through the European Investment Bank. Source : Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) [Creditor Reporting System](https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1). Calculated on a commitments basis. ‘Allocable’ ODA spending is a category defined by the OECD – it is this category that the OECD deems most relevant for analysis on disability inclusion. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For more information on the European Disability Rights Agenda, see the [EDF website](http://www.edf-feph.org/european-disability-rights-agenda-post-2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Treaty on the European Union articles [21](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_1&format=PDF) (development) and [214](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_2&format=PDF) (humanitarian), [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:12012E/TXT&from=EN) articles 208-211. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [Regulation EC No. 1257/96](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A31996R1257) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. EU Budget for the Future, [volume 17: external action](https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/374f512c-c2c9-11e8-9424-01aa75ed71a1); Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, Annex II, page 3. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [Proposal](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020PC0407&from=EN) for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 establishing the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD), the EFSD Guarantee and the EFSD Guarantee Fund, p.7. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Please note that [a new strategic plan covering the period 2020-2024](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/devco_sp_2020_2024_en.pdf) was released after the research for this fact sheet was completed. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. DG DEVCO, 2012, [Guidance note for EU staff: disability-inclusive development cooperation](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/guide-disability-inclusive-development-cooperation-2012_en.pdf), and DG ECHO, 2019, [Operational guidance: the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operation](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf)s. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. DG DEVCO, 2012, [Guidance note for EU staff: disability-inclusive development cooperation](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/guide-disability-inclusive-development-cooperation-2012_en.pdf), p.7 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Axelsson, 2019, ‘[Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms](https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-European-Union-development-cooperation.pdf)’, p.19. Disability is included within the broader [EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy, 2020-2024](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/10101/2020/EN/JOIN-2020-5-F1-EN-ANNEX-1-PART-1.PDF), but in much less detail than would be the case for a stand-alone action plan. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. DG ECHO, [Operational guidance: the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operation](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf)s, p.3 [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. European Commission, 2020, ‘[Keynote speech by Commissioner Urpilainen at the 2020 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) opening session](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/urpilainen/announcements/keynote-speech-commissioner-urpilainen-2020-high-level-political-forum-hlpf-opening-session-titled_en)’ [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. European Commission, ‘[Bridging the Gap – about the project](https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/about-the-project/)’. This work is part of component I. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Quote from Giampiero Griffo (DPI Italia), personal correspondence [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. See for example European Disability Forum, [Guidance note on the role of European organistions of persons with disabilities in development cooperation](http://www.edf-feph.org/sites/default/files/guidance_note_on_dpo_involvement_in_international_cooperation_0.pdf), pp. 6-7. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Human Rights Watch, [*EU Making Aid Efforts More Inclusive*](https://www.refworld.org/docid/5a2909f44.html), 7 December 2017 [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. DG DEVCO, 2012, [Guidance note for EU staff: disability-inclusive development cooperation](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/guide-disability-inclusive-development-cooperation-2012_en.pdf), p.8 [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. DG ECHO, 2019, [Operational guidance: the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operation](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf)s, p.22 [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. DG ECHO, 2019, [Operational guidance: the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operation](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf)s, p.4

 [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Axelsson, 2019, ‘[Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms](https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-European-Union-development-cooperation.pdf)’, p.32,33,35 [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. DG ECHO, 2019, [Operational guidance: the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operation](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf)s, e.g. p. 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 33 [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. The guidance says that “DG ECHO partners are … **strongly encouraged** to enter into partnerships with local DPOs **when pertinent and feasible** to ensure that interventons benefit from their local knowledge and know-how” (DG ECHO, 2019, [Operational guidance: the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operation](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf)s, p.22, emphasis added). [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. Axelsson, 2019, ‘[Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms](https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-European-Union-development-cooperation.pdf)’, p.33 [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. [Regulation EC No. 1257/96](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A31996R1257), Article 7. Direct grantees are encouraged to work with DPOs from the Global South as sub-contractors. (Source : DG ECHO, 2019, [Operational guidance: the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operation](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf)s, p.22). [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. European Commission, 2020, [Human Resources key figures: staff numbers](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-commission-hr_key_figures_2020_en.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Axelsson, 2019, ‘[Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms](https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-European-Union-development-cooperation.pdf)’, p.22 [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Interview with DG DEVCO [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. European Commission, 2020, [Human Resources key figures: staff numbers](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-commission-hr_key_figures_2020_en.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. Interview with DG ECHO [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. Interview with DG DEVCO [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. Axelsson, 2019, ‘[Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms](https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-European-Union-development-cooperation.pdf)’, p.19 [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. European Union, ‘[Capacity4dev – disability and development network](https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/disability-and-development-network/searchgroup?f%5B0%5D=c4m_vocab_language%3A287&items_per_page=20&page=1)’ [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. Interviews with DG DEVCO and DG ECHO [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. DG DEVCO, 2014, [A rights-based approach, encompassing all human rights for development cooperation](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/online-170621-eidhr-rba-toolbox-en-a5-lc_en.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. Axelsson, 2019, ‘[Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms](https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-European-Union-development-cooperation.pdf)’, p.24, 29, 30 [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. Interview with DG DEVCO [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. Interview with DG DEVCO [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. [Operational guidance: the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operation](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf)s, pp. 22-23 [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. Interview with DG DEVCO [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. Axelsson, 2019, ‘[Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms](https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-European-Union-development-cooperation.pdf)’, p.28 [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. Axelsson, 2019, ‘[Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms](https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-European-Union-development-cooperation.pdf)’, pp. 25-26 [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. DG ECHO, [Operational guidance: the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operation](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf)s, p.3 [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. DG ECHO, [Thematic Policies Annex 2020](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/thematic_policies_annex.pdf), p.13 [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. [HIPs for 2020 can be accessed on this page](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/funding-evaluations/funding-decisions-hips_en). [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. European Commission, [Practical Guide](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/prag/document.do?nodeNumber=2.8), Section 2.8. [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2015, [Concluding Observations on the initial report of the European Union](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/226/55/PDF/G1522655.pdf?OpenElement), paras 33 and 75 [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
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49. DG ECHO, [Operational guidance: the inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU-funded humanitarian aid operation](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/2019-01_disability_inclusion_guidance_note.pdf)s, p. 20 [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. See for example Axelsson, 2019, ‘[Inclusion of persons with disabilities in European Union development cooperation mechanisms](https://bridgingthegap-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-European-Union-development-cooperation.pdf)’, p.30 [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. DG DEVCO, 2018, [A Revised EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/10102/2018/EN/SWD-2018-444-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF), p.8 [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. DG DEVCO, 2018, [A Revised EU International Cooperation and Development Results Framework](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/10102/2018/EN/SWD-2018-444-F1-EN-MAIN-PART-1.PDF), pp. 11-15 [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. EU Budget for the Future, [volume 17: external action](https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/707d09a2-80c7-11e8-ac6a-01aa75ed71a1/language-en?WT.mc_id=Selectedpublications&WT.ria_c=677&WT.ria_f=2790&WT.ria_ev=search); Proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, Annex VII [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. This indicator looks at what ODA is spent on, and whether this directly contributes to activities that are contrary to the provisions of the CRPD. For the wider questions of whether ODA spending contributes to activities that fulfil the CRPD, and whether the **way** that ODA is spent complies with the CRPD by enabling the active involvement of DPOs, please refer to the other sections of this fact-sheet. [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2015, [Concluding Observations on the initial report of the European Union](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FEU%2FCO%2F1) (CRPD/C/EU/CO/1), para 74 [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. Interview with DG DEVCO [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. This figure relates to ODA spent by the European Institutions - not to be confused with the total of all ODA spent by all EU Member States, which came to US $84.5 billion in 2019. Source: OECD DAC, [2019 preliminary ODA data](https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-data/ODA-2019-detailed-summary.pdf), Table 1. Exchange rates calculated using the [IMF’s data tables](https://www.imf.org/external/np/fin/data/rms_mth.aspx?SelectDate=2019-06-30&reportType=REP) (data for the mid-point of the year, 28 June 2019). Data on ODA as a share of Gross National Income in 2019 is not available in the case of the European Union. [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. The ‘**DAC marker**’ is a new tool introduced to the OECD DAC’s ODA database. It allows ODA providers to flag whether their spending aims to be disability inclusive. ([More information on the DAC marker is available here](https://inclusive-policy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/OECD-DAC-data-guide-disability-marker_1.0.pdf)). **Allocable ODA spending** is a category defined by the OECD. It describes types of ODA spending that can more easily be controlled and monitored directly by ODA providers (e.g. project spending is easier to control and monitor directly, compared with debt relief). [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. Source : OECD DAC [Creditor Reporting System](https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1). Calculated on a commitments basis, with negative commitments excluded from the analysis. [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. Source : OECD DAC [Creditor Reporting System](https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1). Calculated on a commitments basis, with negative commitments excluded from the analysis. The 0.8% figure includes: (i) spending with disability inclusion as its « principal objective », amounting to 0.2%; and (ii) spending with disability inclusion as a « significant objective », amounting to 0.6%. [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. Source : derived from OECD DAC [Creditor Reporting System](https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=CRS1). [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. For more information, see the European Commission’s ‘[International cooperation and development: where we work](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/where-we-work_en)’ webpage. [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. E.g. [Proposal](https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/374f512c-c2c9-11e8-9424-01aa75ed71a1) for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, including Article 3 (on ODA eligbility) and Article 4 ; [European Consensus on Development](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/european-consensus-on-development-final-20170626_en.pdf) pp. 44-47 [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. DG ECHO, ‘[Needs assessments](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/needs-assessments_en)’ webpage. [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. Please note readers are advised not to draw comparisons between different ODA providers on the basis of the questions in this annex : the questions have been tailored to individual contexts and are not an indication of relative performance. [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. DG DEVCO, 2012, [Guidance note for EU staff: disability-inclusive development cooperation](https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/guide-disability-inclusive-development-cooperation-2012_en.pdf), p.8 [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2015, [Concluding Observations on the initial report of the European Union](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FEU%2FCO%2F1) (CRPD/C/EU/CO/1), para 74 [↑](#footnote-ref-67)