

# Best Practices for Disability-Inclusive Climate Action

Recommendations and examples  
from the Disability Climate Caucus



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# Introduction

## The European Disability Forum

The European Disability Forum is an independent NGO that represents the interests of 100 million Europeans with disabilities. EDF is a unique platform which brings together representative organisation of persons with disabilities from across Europe. EDF is run by persons with disabilities and their families. We are a strong, united voice of persons with disabilities in Europe.

## The Disability Climate Caucus

The Disability Climate Caucus is recognized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as an Informal Group of stakeholders who are actively working to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities in climate action, policy, and funding. Over 120 organisations are represented in the caucus, and it continues to grow as it gains increased international support.



# Best Practices

Climate action projects are often not designed to be disability-inclusive. In order to remove barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from getting involved with climate action, stakeholders should do the following:



Offer training and support for persons with disabilities to take leadership roles in climate action



Incorporate persons with disabilities as active contributors to the planning and implementation of climate action work, not just surface-level participants



Meaningfully engage with youth with disabilities, women with disabilities, and indigenous people with disabilities, as they are often sidelined and not offered the same resources as their peers



Prioritize funding for projects that are led by Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)



Fill the data gap by carrying out research on disabilities and the impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities ([Stein & Stein 2024](#))

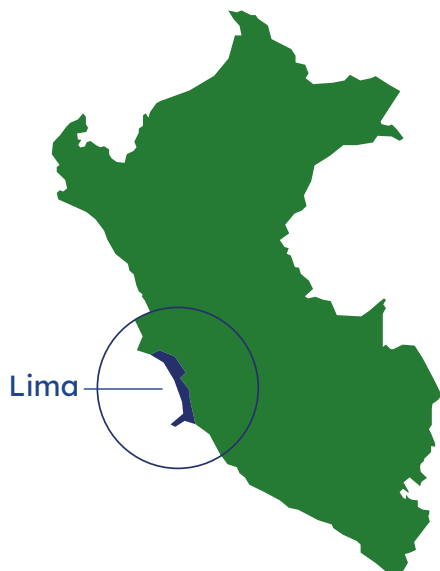


Push for more countries to include disability in their Nationally Determined Contributions ([DICARP report 2025](#))

# Examples of Inclusive Climate Action



## Perú: Inclusive, Community-Centered Disaster Preparedness



**Location:** Lima,  
Perú

**Organisation:**  
Kipu Llaxta -  
Asociación Psico  
Inclusiva

**Workstream:** Disaster  
Risk Reduction

Kipu Llaxta worked with families in areas prone to landslides to perform inclusive disaster risk assessments, build steering committees, pilot studies on inclusive disaster risk reduction, and create inclusive community brigades. The group aimed to remove barriers for persons with disabilities to access disaster-related planning programs. They performed community assessments through a census to find persons with disabilities in the community to create a comprehensive community risk map. Their inclusive workshops have also provided an opportunity for community members to collaborate directly with persons with disabilities, removing perceived barriers of these individuals' "limitations." Persons with disabilities had an active influence in the process, not just passive participation.

The organisation also contributed to a guide on inclusive and accessible communication in emergency contexts. This document compiles best practices for inclusive communication in all formats and applies these concepts to emergency scenarios.



### Further reading (Spanish):

- [Practicas Inclusivas para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres, Prácticas 3, 6, y 10.](#) Humanity & Inclusion, 2020
- [Guía Introductoria: Comunicación Inclusiva y Accesible en Contexto de Emergencia, Compendio Formativo](#)
- [La Experiencia de la Brigada Comunitaria Inclusiva](#)

## Global: Funding Fairer Futures: Inclusive Climate Funding



**Location: Global**  
**Organisation: CBM  
Ireland**

**Workstream: Climate  
Finance**

Funding for disability inclusive climate action is often sparse, yet persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by climate change and systematically excluded from climate finance. CBM Ireland's Funding Fairer Futures initiative responds directly to this gap by resourcing organisations and programmes led by persons with disabilities, and by strengthening OPD leadership in climate justice.

The initiative is co-funded by European Union and Irish Aid. It is part of a Climate Action Network (CAN), a Europe-led consortium that provides grants across several areas including disability inclusive climate justice in Global South countries. Its Inclusive Climate Action Seed Grants Fund is specifically designed to support Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to lead, design, and implement their own climate initiatives.

While access to climate funding is a challenge across sectors, OPDs often face additional structural roadblocks. These barriers include inaccessible funding processes, limited institutional support, and exclusion from decision making spaces. Funding Fairer Futures addresses these challenges by pairing programmatic funding with project management support, networking and campaign opportunities, and fundraising capacity strengthening. CBM Ireland also works to amplify OPDs' voices at local and global levels such as at COP events.

Initiatives like Funding Fairer Futures are essential to advancing rights-based, gender-equitable, youth-led, locally-led, and disability-inclusive climate action. This ensures that OPDs are recognized as key actors and leaders in shaping fairer climate futures.



Olajide Funso Benjamin of Disability Not A Barrier Initiative (BINABI), a Funding Fairer Futures partner OPD from Nigeria, at COP30 in Brazil

### Further reading:

[Funding Fairer Futures](#)

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## Nepal: Intersectional Approaches to Inclusive Climate Adaptation



**Location:** Nepal  
**Organisation:**  
**National  
Indigenous  
Disabled Women  
Association  
Nepal (NIDWAN)**

**Workstream:** Global Goal on Adaptation, Gender Action Plan, Just Transition Work Programme, Disaster Risk Reduction, Advocacy

National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN) has been a leader in disability-inclusive climate action, advocacy, and adaptation for over ten years, working in climate conversation since the Paris Agreement was negotiated in 2015. Their work takes an intersectional approach (gender, disability, indigeneity and other underrepresented groups) to climate justice, recognizing the importance of many intersecting social identities in understanding someone's vulnerability to climate change. The organisation carries out research- and evidence-based advocacy to better understand the barriers that indigenous persons and women with disabilities face and to create a space where diverse women feel safe and able to share about their lived experiences with climate-related natural disasters. By creating an open and safe forum, NIDWAN also establishes a healthy learning environment that encourages participants to learn more about climate change and take a leadership role on climate action in their own communities. They have reached over 800 young indigenous persons and women with disabilities in seven provinces within Nepal through research, capacity building, community led adaptation measures, art, paintings, advocacy, and policy formulation.

Moreover, NIDWAN engages in global, regional, and local spaces for policy intervention with policy planners as a speaker on different UN forums and presents webinars to further disseminate research based information on inclusive and intersectional climate action to the global disability community. As a UNFCCC accredited organization, NIDWAN attends events at annual Conference of the Parties (COP) events and pre-COP sessions. NIDWAN collaborates with both the Disability Climate Caucus and the constituencies of Indigenous Peoples Organisations, Women and Gender, and Youth NGOs, offering support for many other marginalized groups.

### Further reading:

- [Climate change is not equal: Indigenous women with disabilities are taking action](#). Mama Cash
- [Nepal Scoping Study: Amplifying Voices of Indigenous Women and Girls with Disabilities on the Nexus of Climate Change and SRHR](#). Arrow
- [Impact of Climate Change on Indigenous Women and Girls with Disabilities in Nepal](#)
- [Intersectionality, Indigeneity, and Disability Climate Justice in Nepal](#). The Petrie-Flom Center, Harvard Law School
- [LinkedIn Post](#) on an intersectional Focus Group Discussion with Young Indigenous Women with Disabilities
- [LinkedIn Post](#) on a Focus Group Discussion on Indigenous Youth with Disabilities in Nepal
- [LinkedIn Post](#) on NIDWAN's impact
- [Women with disabilities leading inclusive climate adaptation](#). Mama Cash
- [NIDWAN Climate Change](#) website page
- [NIDWAN](#) website Tanzania - Climate Action Leadership Training for Women with Disabilities

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# Tanzania: Climate Action Leadership Training for Women with Disabilities



**Location:** Tanzania

**Organisation:**

**FUWAVITA: Tanzania Joy Women Entrepreneurship for the Deaf**

**Workstream: Gender Action Plan, Global Goal on Adaptation**

FUWAVITA's Climate Justice Program empowers women

with disabilities to take action on climate change, gender equality, and inclusion. The organisation delivers inclusive training sessions covering climate change awareness, disability rights, gender justice, adaptation strategies, and entrepreneurship. To date, over 100 women with disabilities have already completed the training program. The initiative strongly promotes leadership by women with disabilities, supporting them to become role models and actively participate in climate-related dialogues and decision-making processes. The program emphasizes that meaningful inclusion drives real change, as reflected in its core message: "When voices are included, transformation begins." FUWAVITA continues to advocate for the full inclusion of women with disabilities in climate policy and action at all levels.

**Further reading:**

[LinkedIn Post](#)

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## Global: Inclusion of Youth with Disabilities in Climate Negotiations



**Location:** Global  
**Organisation:** European Disability Forum and Youth Negotiators Academy

**Workstream:** Formal Negotiations, Advocacy, Capacity Building

Youth with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, but they are rarely given the training and opportunities needed to lead high-level climate work. In a new collaboration between the European Disability Forum and the Youth Negotiators Academy, youth with disabilities are gaining the skills they need to effectively negotiate for climate action on a global scale. The organisations hosted a webinar guiding young disability rights leaders and climate negotiators alike on the importance of including persons with disabilities in climate negotiations. Speakers discussed their experiences with negotiations at COP30 and other UNFCCC events, emphasizing the need for genuine inclusion and leadership of persons with disabilities in global climate governance. Thanks to a new grant award, this program will expand to offer tailored negotiation training to youth leaders with disabilities to expand their skillsets and networks. This training will build the capacity of youth with disabilities to negotiate for inclusive and impactful climate policy on a global scale.

### Further reading:

- Youth Negotiators Academy [LinkedIn Post](#)
- [From Grassroots to Global Negotiations: Youth with Disabilities at the Frontlines of Climate Action](#)

# Global: Disability Debrief Climate Hub



**Location:** Global, based in Aotearoa New Zealand and United Kingdom  
**Organisation:** Disability Debrief

**Workstream:** Advocacy, Reporting, Awareness

Disability Debrief is an online resource and weekly newsletter written by Peter Torres Fremlin and others with disabilities on issues affecting the disability community, from policy to technology to the environment.



"I Need to Breathe," Tan Kuan Aw, 2021

Áine Kelly-Costello developed the Climate Change and Disability page to provide an understandable, straightforward hub of resources on the intersection between climate and disability. The page provides resources on everything from local disaster preparedness inclusion efforts to international scale climate policy. Many of the articles included on this page are also available in Spanish and French, further increasing the accessibility of the resource. This website provides a wonderful example of a multimedia educational resource designed for persons with disabilities and their allies to use when planning their own inclusive climate action projects.

### Further reading:

[Disability Debrief Climate Change and Disability](#)

## Canada: Climate Action Led by Persons with Disabilities



**Location:** Canada  
**Organisation:** Down Syndrome Resource Foundation

**Workstream:** Just Transition Work Programme

The Down Syndrome Resource Foundation offers many programs for people with Down syndrome, and it has expanded its climate programming thanks to the interest and leadership of climate advocates with Down syndrome. The recently formed DSRF Community Club is designed to enable teens and young adults with Down syndrome to work on social causes that are important to them—including climate action. Glen Hoos, Director of Communications + Sustainability, shared that “it’s a chance for

participants to develop transferable skills and make connections that could enhance their future employability, while making a real difference here and now.” The club works on projects that matter to their members, potentially including park cleanups, tree planting projects, making and distributing cooling kits, and other climate and sustainability initiatives. Additionally, Nika Zondag, a young woman with Down syndrome, works as the organization’s Sustainability Ambassador, helping to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change on people with Down syndrome and other disabilities. Overall, DSRF’s work on climate is determined by the persons with disabilities it interfaces with. They have an active voice in decision making and implementation for any project they select.



### Further reading:

- [Down Syndrome + Climate Change](#) information webpage includes several other resources (articles, podcast episodes, videos, etc.)
- [Nika Zondag](#), sustainability ambassador

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## Angola: Influencing Policy as Disability Rights Activists and OPDs



**Location:** Angola

**Organisation:**

**Federação Angolana  
Das Associações  
De Pessoas Com  
Deficiência (FAPED)  
(Angolan Federation of  
Associations of People  
with Disabilities)**

**Workstream: Nationally Determined Contributions, Public Policy, Disaster Recovery**

FAPED's training program offers a policy-focused approach that prepares persons with disabilities and representative organisations like OPDs to push for public policies that promote the rights of children with disabilities. FAPED has the role of representing OPDs on a national scale in Angola, so it takes a leadership position in guiding many other smaller organisations through the learning process of public policy. By doing so, they effectively have created a knowledge sharing and information dissemination pathway that makes the disability community much more aware of the policies that impact them, as well as the mechanisms for changing harmful policies. This commitment to inclusion on the policy side is essential for long-term support of inclusive climate action policies and funding programs.



More recently, FAPED has also assisted persons with disabilities who were affected by major flooding in Benguela, Angola. The organisation assessed the situation of 95 people with disabilities in recovering from the flooding and offered resources and financial support. FAPED also made local authorities aware of the need to include persons with disabilities in their humanitarian responses and called for urgent response that centers human dignity.



**Further reading (Portuguese):**

[Facebook post](#) on an institutional training and advocacy event.

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## Global and Philippines: “The Power of Disability-Led Climate Movements”



**Location:** Global,  
Philippines  
**Organisation:** Global  
Greengrants Fund,  
Life Haven Center for  
Independent Living

**Workstream:** Climate Finance



Global Greengrants Fund is another example of a funder who has prioritized inclusion of persons with disability in their grant awards program. Their support for Disability Climate Caucus member Life Haven Center for Independent Living enabled the center to

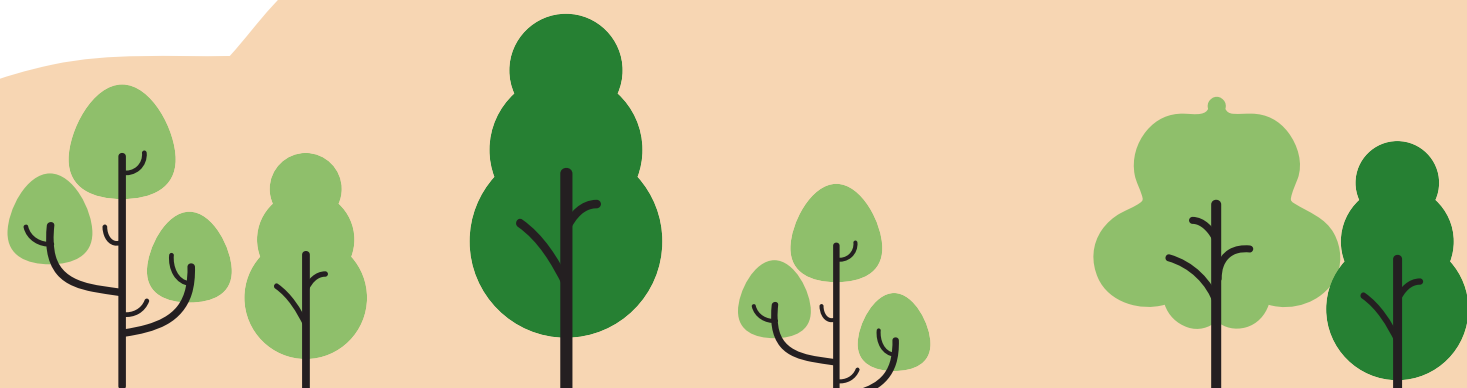
carry out research on the disproportionate impacts of climate change on persons with disabilities. They focused in particular on the dependence on agriculture and fishing in one region of the Philippines, connecting the instability of these industries to rising food insecurity felt by persons with disabilities in the community. The funding through this grant program also enabled Life Haven representatives to attend COP events and represent their country and the disability community on an international scale. The funding offered by Global Greengrants for small, national-scale projects can catalyze a much wider global impact for disability-led climate action.



### Further reading:

[Global Greengrants Fund article](#)

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## Southeast Asia: International Funding Partnerships for Disability Rights



**Location:** Multiple Southeast Asian countries

**Organisation:** ASEAN Disability Forum (ADF)

**Workstream:** Nationally Determined Contributions, Climate Finance, International Partnerships



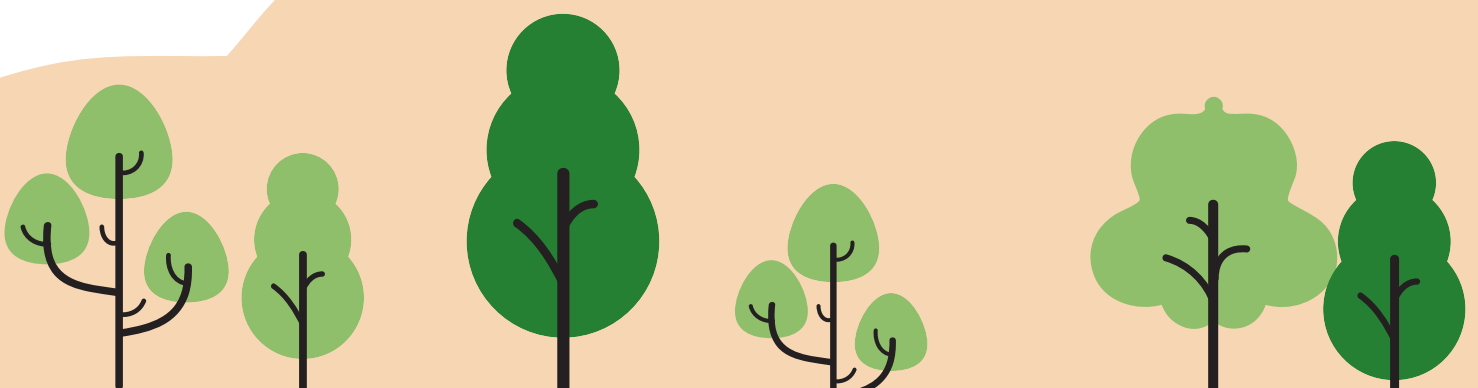
Australia recently created the Stronger Movements, Stronger Futures initiative with \$50 million allocated to Indo-Pacific organisations working on inclusion initiatives, including ADF. The goal of this program is to embed persons with disabilities into the policy- and decision-making process.

This funding commitment is the largest disability-related international investment that Australia has made so far. Their open willingness to support ADF and their disability-inclusive climate action programming will open doors for the organisation to push for disability inclusion throughout the region of Southeast Asia. This is a fantastic example of the international partnerships that are needed to push disability-inclusive climate action forward. When a country with a large amount of power takes a stand to support persons with disabilities (especially across national borders), it signals to other potential funders and collaborators that persons with disabilities are worth supporting in the climate fight.

### Further reading:

- [ASEAN Disability Forum website](#)
- ADF [Research](#)
- [Strengthening Gender, Disability, and Social Inclusion \(GEDSI\) in the Climate Change Agenda Towards COP30: Advancing Global Disability Caucus Recognition and ASEAN Action Recommendations](#)
- Press Release: [Australia invests \\$50 million to strengthen disability rights across the Indo-Pacific](#)

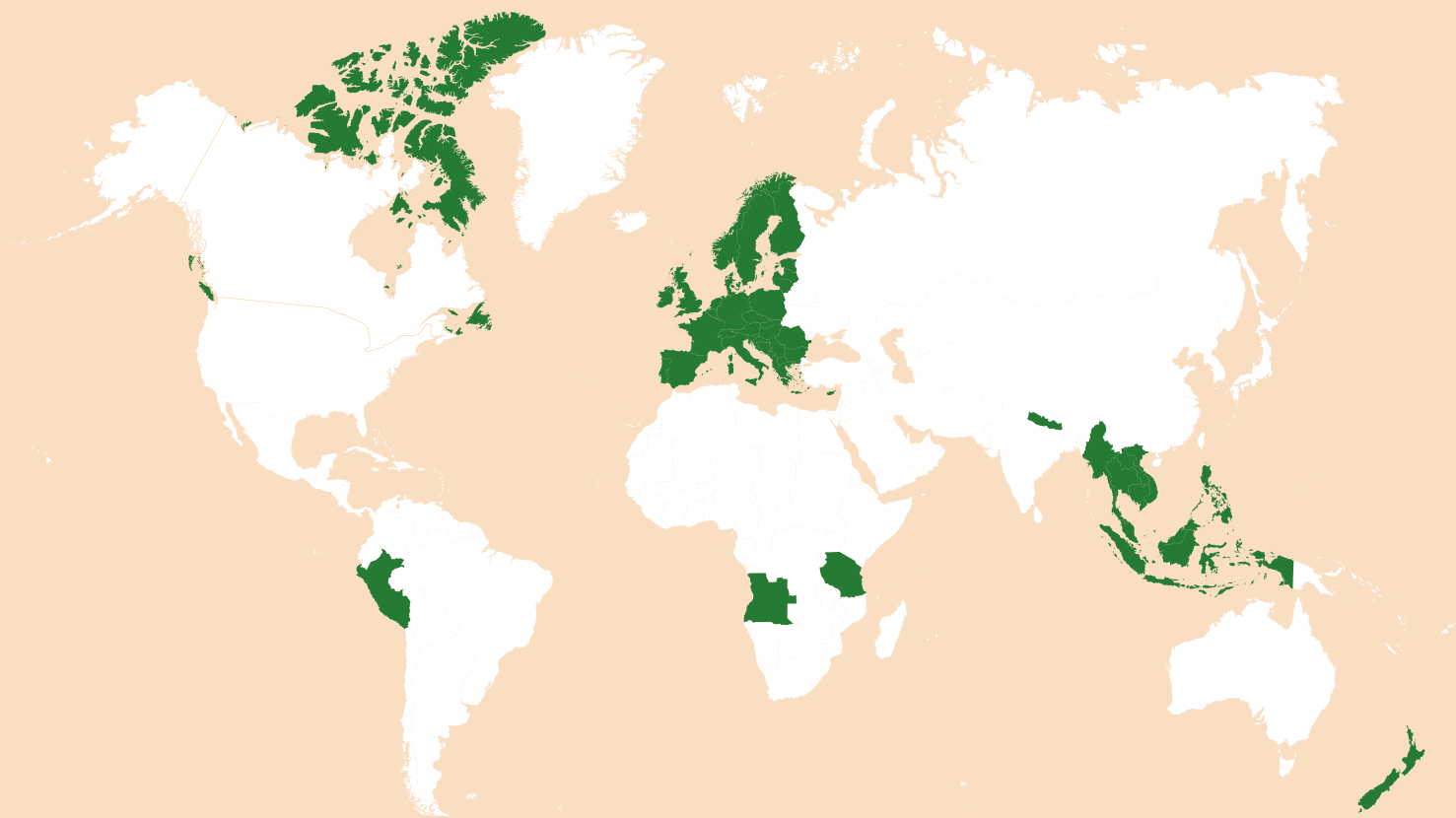
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# Conclusion

Persons with disabilities can be successful, active contributors to climate action when best practices are followed to prioritize their involvement in the climate movement. Many countries and organisations have already begun the work to incorporate the inclusion of disabilities into their climate action projects through the more direct involvement of the disability community, allocation of funding for projects led by OPDs, and inter-organisational and international knowledge sharing and training programs. More countries must follow suit in the support of persons with disabilities in addressing the climate crisis to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable people are heard and uplifted.

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