



# Tajikistan

## Project title

**Building and strengthening alliances for inclusive policies and communities for persons with disabilities in Tajikistan**

## Data

UN organizations ..... **UNDP, UNICEF, WHO**

Duration ..... **October 2014 — December 2017**

Budget ..... **\$350,000**

## Introduction

*“The National Programme on Rehabilitation (2017-2020) aims to create an enabling environment with equal opportunities for all. The UNPRPD project’s support in involving diverse disability and development stakeholders has made a significant contribution to shaping the National Programme to better meet the needs of its users.”* ←

**Dr Saida Umarzoda**  
First Deputy Minister of Health  
and Social Protection of Tajikistan

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## Background

The UNPRPD project in Tajikistan seized a unique opportunity, following the Universal Periodic Review of 2013, to promote the ratification of the CRPD. It enabled UN agencies to partner with state and non-state actors to support the required steps ahead of Tajikistan becoming a party to the CRPD and to address some of the key barriers to the realization of the rights of people with disabilities. It also acknowledged that organizations of persons with disabilities and associations of parents of children with disabilities have the potential to play a stronger role in promoting the rights envisaged in the CRPD, but need capacity-strengthening. The UN entities involved in the UNPRPD project in Tajikistan, therefore, proposed to collaborate with state and non-state actors to

- 1 → conduct a comprehensive analysis of existing legislation and policies in order to inform the government's deliberations and plans on joining the CRPD;
  - 2 → develop a comprehensive communication for social change strategy and initiate a comprehensive awareness campaign to reduce stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities;
  - 3 → leverage the UNPPRD joint programme to demonstrate a community-based rehabilitation model in one target district and advocate for a public-private partnership to implement CBR in other regions of the country.
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## Results

1

### PAVING THE WAY FOR CRPD RATIFICATION

Significant progress has been made in paving the way for the ratification of the CRPD by Tajikistan, expected in 2020. In a significant move in this direction, the Government of Tajikistan signed the CRPD in March 2018. Towards this end, the UN-PRPD Project supported a comprehensive “Analysis of the legal, economic and functional implications of Tajikistan joining the UN CRPD” to inform the Government of Tajikistan’s decision to sign. Based on this analysis, the government, in cooperation with UN agencies and several DPOs including organizations of women with disabilities, conducted extensive round tables from June to November 2015.

About 210 people participated in the national and regional round tables supported by the UNPRPD Project to discuss the ratification of the CRPD. As a result, in 2016, during the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the government accepted the recommendations to join the CRPD. In 2017, Tajikistan adopted a UPR Action Plan, which included three specific measures related to the CRPD and its Optional Protocol.

**The Presidential Decree for the signing of the CRPD was issued, followed by signing of the CRPD by the Government of Tajikistan in March 2018.**

20

2

### ESTABLISHING DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE STRATEGIC AND PROGRAMMATIC FRAMEWORKS

Following the extensive advocacy and technical analysis for the CRPD ratification, which promoted discussions about the rights of persons with disabilities at the highest levels, for the first time the National Development Strategy (NDS, 2016-2030) of the Republic of Tajikistan reflects the rights of persons with disabilities. The NDS 2016-2030 developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade in line with the CRPD’s principles was endorsed by the Tajik Parliament in December 2016. Furthermore, the Mid-Term Development Strategy for 2016-2020 (MTDS) builds on the NDS (2016-2030) and incorporates the rights of persons with disabilities. DPOs were engaged in extensive discussions conducted at the local level on both draft strategies. Furthermore, targeted individual discussions with DPO representatives and persons with disabilities were undertaken to check the feasibility, relevance and importance of the suggested actions in the respective strategies. Consequently, the rights of persons with disabilities are incorporated throughout the NDS, MTDS and its action plan. These foundational strategy documents provide a solid basis for implementing the rights of persons with disabilities in Tajikistan.

The above experiences of inclusion and participation laid the foundations for a truly participatory process in the development of the multisectoral National Programme on Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (2017-2020) as a precursor to the signing of the CRPD. The multisectoral National Programme on Disability provides a long-term vision and a roadmap for the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities in Tajikistan up to 2020.

**The National Programme was drafted with close engagement of 22 different ministries, state agencies and committees along with national and international NGOs, United Nations agencies, donor agencies, associations of parents of children with disabilities and DPOs.**

In total, approximately 110 different organizations within the country participated in the drafting and review process.



18

National  
and regional  
round tables

210 people

Expected ratification  
of the CRPD

2020

Civic engagement  
and inclusive  
governance

For the first time ever, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MOHSPP) submitted a detailed report to the government on the engagement of DPOs and civil society in the drafting of the National Programme. DPOs continue to actively participate in the monitoring of the National Programme. A national implementation review meeting of the National Programme was conducted by MOHSPP in October 2017 and was attended by donor agencies, UN agencies, INGOs and DPOs. Based on this review, the progress and challenges of the first year of implementation were reported at the 6th joint MOHSPP and development partners' annual national review and planning forum, attended by all the ministries, agencies and committees as well as representatives from Parliament and the Presidential Executive Office, donor agencies, UN agencies, INGOs and DPOs in November 2017. This marks a significant advancement in expanding the space for civic engagement and inclusive governance in Tajikistan.

Organizations part of the  
drafting and review process

110

### ADDRESSING STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

Inclusion



A solid foundation was laid to help raise awareness on issues of disability and to promote positive attitudes about adults and children with disabilities. The Baseline Study on Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours and Practices related to Children and Women with Disabilities conducted in 2016 generated the evidence necessary to develop a Communication for Social Change (C4SC) Strategy. In the process of developing the C4SC Strategy, the project also contributed to the mobilization and capacity enhancement of a wide range of stakeholders, including adults and children with disabilities, associations of parents of children with disabilities and DPOs, around the preparations of a nationwide evidence-based awareness-raising campaign on disability inclusion, which will be launched in 2018. A reference group comprising representatives of government, CSOs and UN agencies, including men and women with disabilities, was set up to guide and facilitate the C4SC Strategy implementation. Through the project, basic capacity on C4D was created among a range of stakeholders from DPOs, associations of parents of children with disabilities, NGOs, government, and media, which will be strengthened in the future and used to support the expansion of C4D interventions. Through continued engagement with national government officials using various platforms (e.g. steering committee meetings, reference group meetings, training workshops), the project was able to contribute to positively influencing perceptions among these officials about persons with disabilities.

**The Endline Study on Knowledge, Attitudes, Behaviours and Practices related to Children and Women with Disabilities planned in 2019 will measure the progress in changing prevailing perceptions about disability.**

Changing  
perceptions about  
disability

**DEVELOPING  
A NATIONAL  
MODEL FOR  
COMMUNITY-  
BASED  
REHABILITATION  
(CBR)**

A major contribution of the project was the development of a sustainable national CBR model that is owned by the government and implemented in partnership with local NGOs through public-private partnership (PPP). With technical support from the project, the MOHSPP initiated a CBR PPP mechanism in 15 districts in 2015, which was further expanded to 20 districts in 2016 and 28 districts in 2017. This represents a significant expansion from a baseline of four districts before the start of the project. The CBR projects will be further expanded to 38 districts in 2018. The UNPRPD Project had a positive influence on government funding for CBR, which increased from \$495,000 in 2015 to \$830,000 in 2018.

The project also supported consensus-building among a wide range of stakeholders – UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs, and government – to adopt a common vision on CBR and establish and strengthen a CBR coordination mechanism, namely the Tajikistan CBR Network, which is chaired by the government and co-chaired by two representatives of a DPO and a local NGO. The CBR Network’s membership increased from seven international organizations to 50, representing government, DPOs, associations of parents of children with disabilities, local NGOs, INGOs, and UN agencies. A few more actions have proved pivotal in enhancing CBR quality. This involved strengthening the capacity of CBR organizations involved in the implementation and management of CBR projects. This included the training of CBR workers and managers in 2015 and 2017. In total, 232 CBR workers and managers (164 women and 68 men) were trained across the country.



**Implementing Community-Based Rehabilitation programmes**

Districts involved



Government funding  
**\$495,000**  
2015

Districts involved



Government funding  
**\$830,000**  
2018

Number of organizational members of the CBR Network



Representing government, DPOs, associations of parents of children with disabilities, local NGOs, INGOs, and UN agencies



CBR workers and managers were trained across the country.





### THE UNITED NATIONS PARTNERSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (UNPRPD)

Officially launched in 2011, the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) is a unique collaborative effort that brings together UN entities, governments, disabled people's organizations and the broader civil society to advance disability rights around the world. The UNPRPD supports the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by facilitating policy dialogue, coalition-building and capacity-development at country, regional and global levels. In doing so, it leverages the comparative advantage of multiple stakeholders to advance the vision of a "society for all" in the 21st century.

The UN entities participating in the UNPRPD are the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's

Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the World Health Organization (WHO). The UNDP Inclusive Political Processes Team serves as the Technical Secretariat for the Partnership. The UNPRPD also works closely with multiple civil society organizations including the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).

The UNPRPD is supported by the UNPRPD Fund, a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) established to mobilize resources for the Partnership. The UNPRPD MPTF is administered by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) and builds on the experience developed by the MPTF Office in managing multiple Multi-Partner Trust Funds and joint programmes around the world.