



**UNPRPD** 

Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

# **Strategic Operational Framework**

## **2020–2025**



**July 2020**

# Summary

# Context

Since the United Nations Partnership for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) was first established in 2011, the context has evolved, and there have been several key developments in the disability inclusion landscape. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) continues to drive the discourse on disability inclusive development, and despite progress in monitoring and reporting of the CRPD, countries struggle to transform the CRPD into concrete policies, systems and services that uphold the rights of persons with disabilities. A key gap in implementation of the CRPD is the lack of understanding of the essential preconditions to ensure disability inclusive development. These are the foundational aspects indispensable in addressing the requirements of persons with disabilities across all sectors, such as accessibility, access to disability support services, protection from discrimination and more.

The next five years are critical for ensuring that persons with disabilities are not left behind as development actors enhance efforts to achieve the SDGs.

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) promises to 'leave no one behind.' With only a decade left to go, the UN Decade of Action aims to ambitiously step up efforts, and disability inclusion must not be left behind in the push to achieve the SDGs. Another key development is increased focus on persons with disabilities within the UN system. For example, the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) was launched in 2019 as a cohesive policy and accountability framework aimed at promoting a 'whole-of-system' approach to disability inclusion within the UN.

# UNPRPD MPTF's Catalytic Role

The UNPRPD MPTF is a unique partnership that brings together nine UN entities,<sup>1</sup> governments, organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs),<sup>2</sup> and broader civil society to advance the rights of persons with disabilities around the world. It was created to foster collaboration between its members and complement their work on disability inclusion through UN joint programming. Since 2012, the UNPRPD MPTF has supported over **49 joint UN programmes** in **39 countries** across various regions, mobilizing over **US\$40 million**.<sup>3</sup>

In the next five years, the UNPRPD MPTF will respond to the above-mentioned contextual challenges and opportunities through its collaborative, joint programming approach and revised theory of change, marking a shift from reactive to more proactive, results-oriented programming to drive implementation of the CRPD and disability inclusive SDGs with the meaningful participation of OPDs. This will be achieved by encouraging and supporting countries to develop and reform policies, plans, budgets, programmes and services to comply with the CRPD and SDGs by applying both disability-specific and disability-mainstreamed interventions. These interventions will focus on the preconditions to disability inclusion, providing an avenue for facilitating and contributing to a unified response at country level by the UN, advancing the UN's collective response.

The implementation of UNDIS will generate greater momentum and buy-in for disability inclusion across UN entities and country teams. Similarly, UNPRPD's direct support to disability inclusion at the country level has the potential to directly and indirectly contribute towards several of the UNDIS indicators at both UN entity and country team levels, and synergies between UNDIS implementation and UNPRPD efforts will be ensured.

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- 1 UN members include 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, Scientific and Cultural 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) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
  - 2 The OPD member is the International Disability Alliance (IDA), and the broader civil society member is the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).
  - 3 UNPRPD MPTF donors include Finland, Australia, United Kingdom, Norway, Sweden, Mexico, Israel, Spain and Cyprus.

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# Cross-Cutting Approaches

A number of cross-cutting Approaches will be intrinsically applied across all of UNPRPD's structures, processes and programmes to ensure the full and meaningful participation of all persons with disabilities:

## **Enabling full and effective participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations**

The UNPRPD MPTF recognizes the central importance of effective and meaningful participation and consultation with persons with disabilities, which will be integrated into UNPRPD governance and programme structures; programme planning, implementation, and monitoring processes; multi-stakeholder training and technical assistance activities; and review of UNPRPD outputs and tools.

## **Ensuring the inclusion of marginalized and underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities**

The UNPRPD MPTF will promote and support the inclusion of persons with certain types of disabilities who may experience even greater marginalization and persons with disabilities who face intersectional discrimination due to disability and other intersecting identities or characteristics to ensure representation in policies, programmes and services, as well as civil society engagement, including OPDs.

## **Addressing gender inequality and advancing the rights of women and girls with disabilities**

The UNPRPD MPTF will take a multi-pronged, transformative approach to address intersectional discrimination faced by women with disabilities through gender mainstreaming, gender-specific targeted interventions, and the empowerment and participation of women and girls with disabilities.

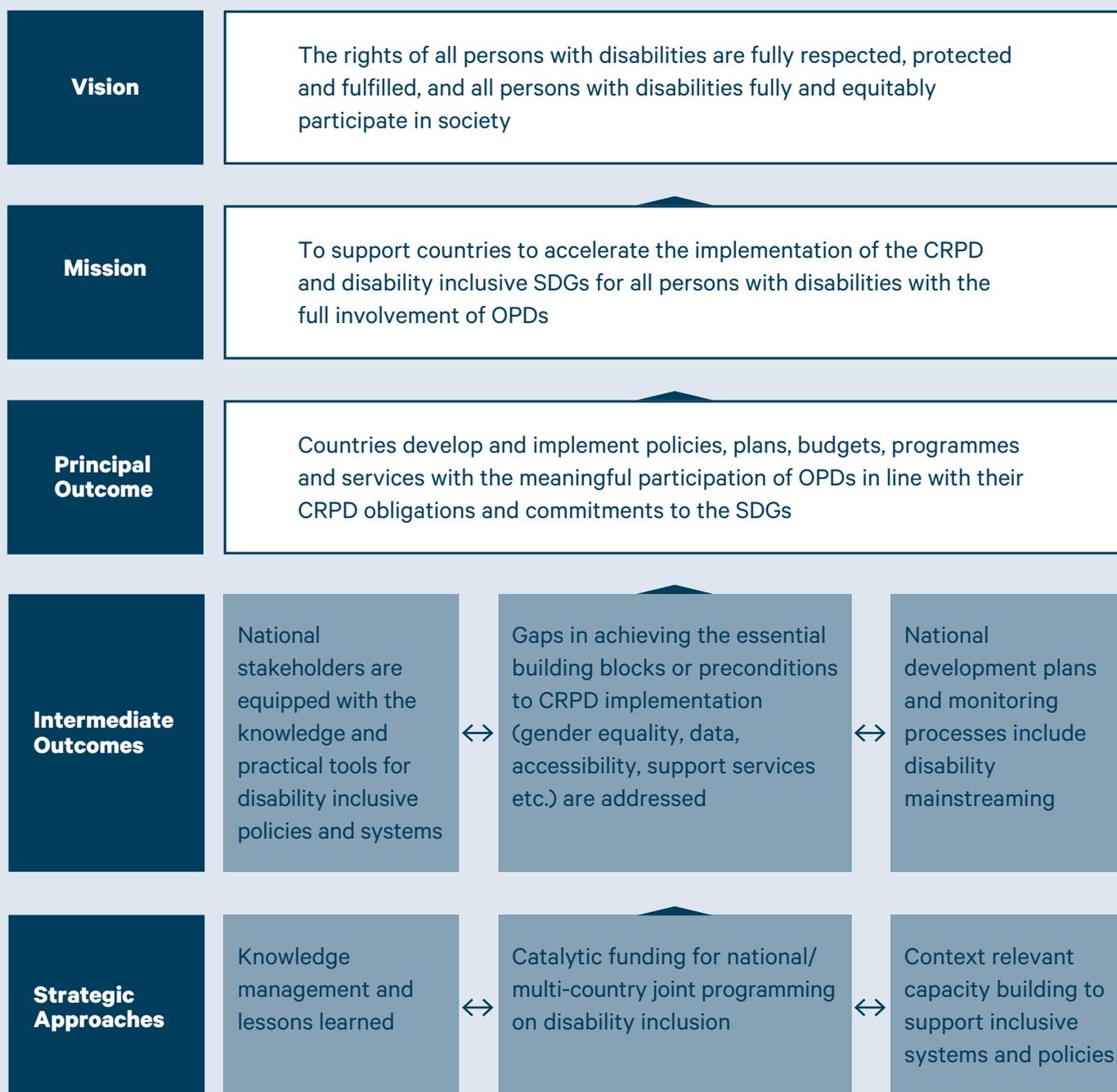
# Theory of Change and Strategic Approaches

## Theory of Change

UNPRPD's Theory of Change reflects its catalytic role and collaborative approach in advancing CRPD implementation and disability inclusive SDGs at country level.

Figure 1

### UNPRPD's Theory of Change 2020–2025



The UNPRPD MPTF's overarching vision is for the rights of persons with disabilities to be respected, protected and fulfilled and for all persons with disabilities to fully participate in society. To contribute to this, its mission is to support countries to accelerate the implementation of the CRPD and disability inclusive SDGs for all persons with disabilities with the full involvement of OPDs. To achieve its mission, UNPRPD's Principal Outcome is to support countries to develop and implement policies, plans, budgets, programmes and services with the meaningful participation of OPDs in line with their CRPD obligations and commitments to the SDGs. This will be applied through a twin-track approach, i.e., a combination of targeted disability-specific and disability-mainstreamed interventions. In addition, the Cross-Cutting Approaches of enabling OPD participation, ensuring the inclusion of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities, and addressing gender inequality, will be important elements across all of UNPRPD's work to ensure all persons with disabilities effectively participate in decisions that affect them.

UNPRPD's Principal Outcome is further broken down into three key interventions or Intermediate Outcomes:

- National stakeholders are equipped with the knowledge and practical tools for disability inclusive policies and systems and an understanding of how these work in practice
- Gaps in achieving the essential preconditions to CRPD implementation are addressed, focusing on support to countries to develop CRPD-compliant laws, policies and service delivery systems
- National development plans and monitoring processes include disability mainstreaming and the requirements of persons with disabilities in order to achieve the SDGs.

These Intermediate Outcomes will be operationalized through three strategic approaches, which are outlined below.

## Strategic Approaches

Country-level joint programming is UNPRPD’s core focus and unique value proposition. It is the top strategic priority, consisting of the majority of UNPRPD’s funds, and it will be supported by two additional strategic approaches, ensuring that activities will be mutually supportive.

Figure 2

### Conceptual integration of the three strategic approaches



# 1 **Catalytic funding for national and multi-country joint programming on disability inclusion**, which can be further broken down into three workstreams:

- A** Country-level joint programmes to accelerate CRPD implementation: National-ly-owned, joint programmes on national priorities to advance systemic reforms on the essential preconditions for CRPD implementation through a multi-sectoral response.
- B** Disability inclusive national development planning and monitoring: Dedicated resources to support country-level implementation of the SDGs to increase disability inclusion and the commitment to leave no one behind through the UN's collective response and planning systems.
- C** Multi-country joint programmes to pilot CRPD implementation tools: Multi-country joint programmes to pilot and refine knowledge management tools that provide concrete guidance on workable solutions for CRPD implementation, focusing on the preconditions to disability inclusion with the added value of gathering learning across countries.

# 2 **Knowledge management and lessons learned:** Drawing on programmatic experience, systems and tools that capture knowledge and evidence on CRPD implementation methods, approaches and practices on systemic structural interventions at country level to address gaps in technical knowledge on the essential preconditions for CRPD implementation and programme delivery

# 3 **Context-relevant capacity building to support inclusive systems and policies:** Targeted capacity building to address gaps in UNPRPD joint programmes, secure a unified understanding of the CRPD and disability inclusive SDGs, translate the CRPD and SDGs into practical implementation, and address challenges in programme implementation.

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# Results Framework

UNPRPD's topline targets for 2020–2025 include:

- **Joint programmes in at least 50 countries** over the **five-year period** to accelerate CRPD implementation by addressing gaps in the essential preconditions to disability inclusion
- **Catalytic funding to support at least 50 countries** on disability inclusive national development planning and monitoring to advance the SDGs
- **5 multi-country programmes** to pilot UNPRPD knowledge management tools for disability inclusion across 10 countries
- **15 knowledge management tools** and/or **systems** created and shared to enhance programme delivery
- **100 multi-stakeholder trainings** delivered to support UNPRPD programmes

Monitoring and evaluation systems for UNPRPD programmes are based on the overall UN guidelines and guidance from each participating UN entity, including the evaluation and key learnings of UNPRPD programmatic priorities. They will be designed at country level, utilizing 5–7 percent of the programme budget.

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# Theory of Change and Strategic Approaches

The governance of UNPRPD is divided across two mechanisms:

- **Policy Board (PB)** – High-level representatives from all participating UN entities, three donors, the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), responsible for the overall policy guidance, partnership building strategies, strategic guidance on programmes and financial allocations, and feedback on the overall effectiveness of UNPRPD’s work
- **Management Committee (MC)** – Representatives from all participating UN entities, three donors, IDA and IDDC, responsible for reviewing and approving UNPRPD annual plans and allocation of funds, proposal approvals based on the recommendations of a committee of technical experts, reviewing annual reports and the risk matrix, supporting monitoring and evaluation, and reviewing requests for significant changes to funded programmes.

The Technical Secretariat, hosted by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), will ensure efficient coordination of partners, programmes, processes, resource mobilization, annual plans, quality assurance, communications, monitoring and evaluation, and safeguarding, working with the Administrative Agent, Policy Board and Management Committee.



**UNPRPD** 

Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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