




CIF's Disability Inclusion Framework for CIF

Updates on background research and proposed next steps

January 2023



Section 1: Background – why focus on inclusion of persons with disabilities in climate finance?

Disproportionate Impacts of Climate Change

- Persons with disabilities represent over 15% of the world population, over 80% of them live in developing countries.
- They are often among the most adversely affected in a climate emergency, with least access to emergency support and social welfare systems. They also face multiple challenges to migrate safely and often remain behind without assistance.
- Severe weather events and natural disasters amid inadequate health care and assistance pose life threatening risks to persons with disabilities. Climate emergencies exacerbate violence against women and girls especially when they have disabilities.
- Persons with disabilities are significantly unrepresented at labor market, and the effects of climate change further exacerbate their exclusion, while their access to new green jobs is limited.
- Persons with disabilities face additional barriers in accessing electricity, while their needs for it are more urgent (assistive technologies, medical devices etc.)



Mainstreaming and Participation

- Just like gender, disability is a cross cutting issue. It intersects with other social exclusion factors: age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, culture, migration status, etc.
- Without targeted actions, climate investments could reinforce the structural inequalities that lead to disability exclusion. Unique opportunity to incorporate the principles of disability inclusion as a core tenant of just transition and green growth strategies.
- Participation is a fundamental human rights principle and a requirement of the human rights-based approach (UN Human Rights Office of High Commissioner. If left out of decision-making process, persons with disabilities can be adversely impacted by well intentioned responses to climate change.
- Persons with disabilities are recognized by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as one of the most acutely affected by climate change.
- There is nearly no area or sector which is not of interest to and does not affect the disability community.



Recipient countries

- Out of 72 CIF recipient countries 69 have ratified the UN Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- All ACT countries (India, Philippines, Indonesia and South Africa) have adapted disability rights acts and policies to ensure equal opportunities to persons with disabilities in employment, health care and education.

“This Law is to aims to enable the disabled people to join the society by taking measures which will provide the solution of their problems regarding health, education, rehabilitation, employment, care and social security and the removal of the obstacles they face and to make the necessary arrangements for the coordination of these services.” Turkey Disability Law adopted 2005



Contributor countries

- Most Donor countries integrated disability inclusion into their development policies and strategies. They consider persons with disabilities not only as recipients of assistance, but also as important actors contributing to development efforts.
- USAID provides grants on disability and climate action-specific interventions for its missions.
- Canada and Germany are actively investing in disability inclusion interventions domestically and through the global development platforms.
- Japan and Norway also adopted a twin-track approach that mainstreams the inclusion of persons with disabilities as beneficiaries in overall development initiatives and supports disability-specific initiatives.
- UK expands disability strategy to include climate actions :

“Climate action must be inclusive of persons in vulnerable situations. This means ensuring that information and services are accessible, challenging social norms that create barriers to access, and disaggregating data by gender, age and disability.”



Multilateral Development Banks

- Majority of MDBs have specific disability inclusion strategies and mandates
- The World Bank and ADB apply twin track approach: recognizing persons with disabilities as beneficiaries and finance specific projects to address gap in disability and inclusion.
- The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) adopted its Equality of Opportunity Strategy (EOS) for 2021–2025 to broaden and strengthen the bank's distinctive private sector-focused approach to economic inclusion for persons with disabilities
- The African Development Bank and Inter-American Development Bank considers disability inclusion to be one of the emerging issues as part of the social and environmental risk assessments.



Gaps identified

- Limited knowledge base and research on the social and economic impacts on persons with disabilities due to climate induced shocks and emergencies
- Limited design measures that ensure disability inclusion in just transitions/green growth strategies
- Limited tools for better targeting persons with disabilities in design of climate investment projects
- Limited stakeholder engagement and collaboration with OPDs, disability inclusion experts, academia and persons with disabilities in climate policy making





Section 2: Towards CIF's Disability Inclusion Action Plan

Disability Inclusion – Action Plan

Scoping work carried out in September 2022 – January 2023

- **Background paper** to map some of the key emerging issues from the practitioner literature addressing the disability and climate change nexus to identify themes relevant to CIF's new programming areas and specific entry points for relevant activities.
- **Consultations** on the Background paper with the MDBs and selected experts (ILO, WB Disability lead, Disability Rights UK etc).
- **Blog** on disability-inclusive climate finance.

Proposed framework for the Action Plan:

- a. Engagement with OPDs and other stakeholders working on disability inclusion.
- b. Co-producing with the MDBs and other stakeholders' technical knowledge to facilitate disability inclusion considerations during the design and implementation of CIF-financed projects; *and*
- c. Increasing accessibility of CIF's events, publications and processes.

Next steps for rolling out the Action Plan

Phase 0: Development of Action Plan and Budget (February – May 2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct an accessibility audit of activities by CIF’s Administrative Unit and the costing of the modifications required for disability inclusion.• Prepare disability inclusion background briefs for selected countries/sectors (with focus on countries prioritized for funding under ACT, REI and NPC).• Conduct a series of stakeholder consultations with OPDs, MDBs, and other development actors.• Develop sample accessible materials for the CIF website.• Start drafting a toolkit of best practices on disability inclusion in renewable energy, coal transitions, urban planning, and nature-based solutions sectors.• Develop and present to the TFC in June a detailed Action Plan with budget for rolling out the framework in FY24.
Phase 1: Implementation (July 2023 – June 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize in consultation with the MDBs and other development partners the Toolkit of best practices on disability inclusion in renewable energy, coal transitions, urban planning, and nature-based solutions sectors.• Conduct disability and inclusion reviews of select CIF projects.• Implement accessibility modifications to CIF AU’s activities, processes and publications.• Establish on-going dialogue with OPDs.

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