

International
Disability
Alliance

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Advancing disability inclusion
through Organisations of persons
with disabilities in an increasingly
challenging global context



IDA

International
Disability Alliance

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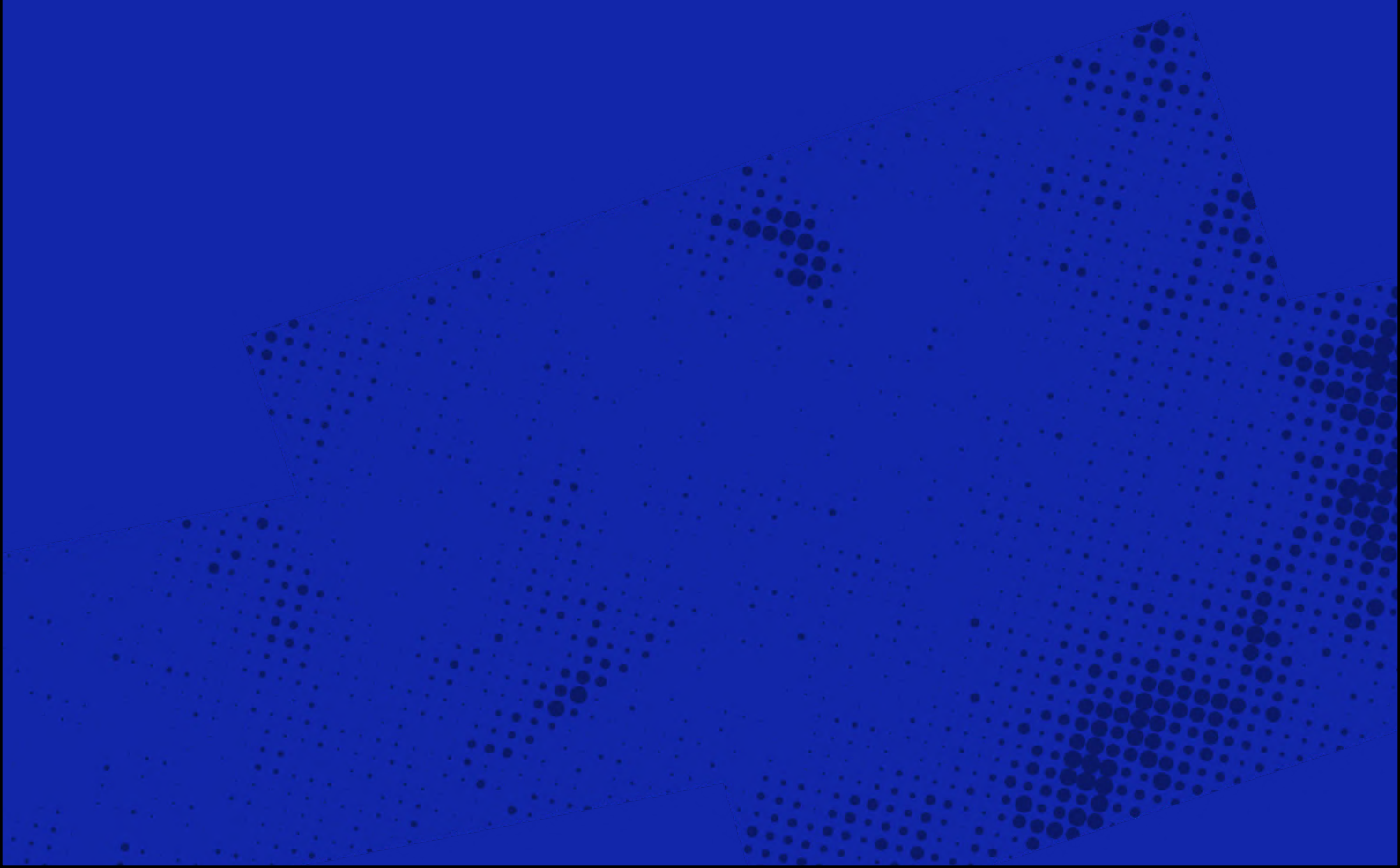
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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear friends, partners and allies,

In 2025 the world became more uncertain for persons with disabilities and for the organisations that represent them. At the start of the year, the global development system faced major disruption. Long-standing funding channels were interrupted, including through the closure and contraction of USAID related support. Organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) across the world confronted sudden existential uncertainty. At the same time, the very language of inclusion was increasingly questioned in some political spaces. The humanitarian reset by OCHA, and the UN80 reform process added further uncertainty for persons with disabilities, the world's largest marginalised group.

IDA responded by doing what this Alliance was created to do: bringing the disability movement together, defending the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and ensuring that persons with disabilities, through their representative organisations, remained present, active and engaged wherever the future of development, humanitarian action, financing, health, climate policy and human rights was being discussed, negotiated and decided.

In 2025, IDA responded to these challenges with scale, clarity and collective leadership.

The Global Disability Summit in Berlin was the largest global convening of its kind, bringing governments, donors, United Nations agencies, development actors and OPDs together around a renewed agenda of commitments and accountability. IDA's role was to ensure that the Summit was shaped by OPD priorities before commitments were made, and that those commitments can now be used by OPDs after the Summit to demand implementation, funding and measurable change.

We also advanced financing for disability inclusion throughout the year. In Sevilla, IDA helped position disability inclusion within the wider debate on financing for development, including through the Sevilla Commitment and the launch of an inclusive financing initiative and platform with partners. We made our first submission to the OECD-DAC and contributed to policy guidance and accountability discussions that can help move disability inclusion from aspiration to measurable investment.

We helped launch and strengthen global financing mechanisms and initiatives for persons with disabilities, grounded in the principle that development finance must be shaped with OPDs and must reach the systems that determine people's lives: education, health, employment, social

protection, humanitarian response, assistive technology, climate resilience and community support.

IDA also carried the voice of persons with disabilities into some of the most urgent humanitarian and human rights situations. We supported OPDs and partners to bring the realities of persons with disabilities affected by the war in Ukraine into international accountability and reconstruction discussions. We worked with the CRPD Committee and UN agencies in Geneva to raise the situation of persons with disabilities in Gaza, including the need for protection, accessible humanitarian assistance, health care, rehabilitation, psychosocial support, assistive technology and accountability. We continued to insist that Article 11 of the CRPD must be understood as a strict obligation: in conflict, disaster and humanitarian emergency, persons with disabilities must be protected, included and heard.

The issues addressed in this report are matters of life and death for people with disabilities. They concern whether a person with a disability can evacuate during war or disaster; whether a woman with a disability can access health care, protection and justice; whether governments investigate preventable deaths and systemic neglect; and whether development financing reaches those who have been left furthest behind.

Across the year, IDA's work showed the strength of a global alliance. We supported 203 OPDs, with more than half led by women, youth or underrepresented groups. We contributed to 109 disability-related laws and policies, enabled 904 OPD-led initiatives, supported the use of 98 strategic resources, influenced 116 UN resolutions and supported representation in 55 major global platforms, forums and events. Through national advocacy and grant pathways across 67 countries, OPDs advanced work on CRPD implementation, inclusive education, health

equity, sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health, assistive technology, employment, refugee rights, climate action, social protection, community inclusion and humanitarian response.

This report also shows that IDA's work is both immediate and catalytic. The immediate impact is seen when people gain knowledge, confidence, peer networks, accessible participation and practical support. The catalytic impact is seen when stronger OPDs influence the systems that affect millions: laws, policies, budgets, services, humanitarian responses, health systems and accountability mechanisms. Under our 2025-30 strategy, IDA's working methods and approach is through OPD feedback loops that take us:

- From lived experience to global standards, and back to national action.
- From OPD participation to stronger commitments, and from commitments to accountability.
- From country-level barrier identification to systems-change advocacy.
- From crisis response to humanitarian system reform.
- From knowledge generation to movement power.

As we look to 2026, the task is clear. The commitments made in 2025 must become implementation. The promises of the Global Disability Summit must be financed, monitored and delivered. Financing for development must include disability as a measurable priority. Humanitarian reform must recognise OPDs as essential actors in preparedness, response and recovery. Health equity must include disability in pandemic preparedness, public health systems, mental health and sexual and reproductive health. Climate action must recognise persons with disabilities as climate actors. Treaty body recommendations must become national reforms. And the disability movement itself

must have the core support, accessibility funding and institutional space it needs to lead.

The work of IDA in 2025 positively impacted the lives of over 23 million people with disabilities across the world, and by 2031, we will reach at least 800 million. IDA will continue to change the systems that shape whether persons with disabilities can live with dignity, equality and freedom. The world

cannot build just, resilient and inclusive societies while excluding 1.3 billion persons with disabilities.

On behalf of the International Disability Alliance we thank our members, partners, donors, Secretariat and allies for standing with the disability movement in 2025. This report is a record of what we achieved together. It is also a call to action for the years ahead.



Dr Nawaf Kabbara

International Disability Alliance President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kabbara".



José María Viera

International Disability Alliance Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JMV".



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ADF

African Disability Forum

AFOWD

Arab Forum of Women with Disabilities

AOPD

Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities

ATscale

Global Partnership for Assistive Technology

COP30

30th Conference of the Parties (UN Climate Change Conference)

CRPD

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

DRG

Disability Reference Group

FNPH

Fédération Nigérienne des Personnes Handicapées

G20

Group of Twenty

GLAD

Global Action on Disability Network

IDA

International Disability Alliance

IASC

Inter-Agency Standing Committee

OCHA

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OECD-DAC

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee

OPD/OPDs

Organisation(s) of Persons with Disabilities

RIADIS

Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organisations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families

SRHR

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

UN

United Nations

UNFCCC

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

UNSC

United Nations Security Council

USAID

United States Agency for International Development

WHO

World Health Organization

WBU

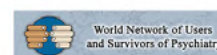
World Blind Union

2025 was a defining year for the International Disability Alliance and for the global disability rights movement. At a time when international cooperation faced major disruption, humanitarian crises intensified, climate risks deepened, and the value of inclusion was questioned in some political spaces, IDA worked with its members and wider OPD partners to keep the rights, leadership and lived realities of persons with disabilities at the centre of global, regional and national action. This report tells the story of that work: how IDA helped turn representative leadership into policy influence, global commitments into accountability tools, and OPD-led advocacy into practical improvements in people's lives.

Regional members



Global members



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report is structured around eleven main sections.

01

Key figures

Presents IDA's headline impact in 2025: an estimated contribution to improved lives, rights and opportunities for 23 million persons with disabilities. This section explains IDA's systems-change model and sets out the scale of the year's work across countries, OPDs, laws and policies, UN resolutions, global platforms, strategic resources and OPD-led initiatives.

02

Global Influence

Examines how IDA embedded disability rights across major international agendas in 2025. It covers IDA's role in the Global Disability Summit 2025, the Amman-Berlin Declaration, GLAD and donor coordination, financing for development, OECD-DAC disability marker advocacy, treaty body engagement, the UN General Assembly Third Committee resolution on the CRPD, Article 11 advocacy in situations of risk and humanitarian emergency, and the World Social Summit in Doha.

03

Movement Strengthening

Focuses on IDA's investment in OPD leadership and national change. It describes how IDA supported OPDs through technical accompaniment, national advocacy pathways, grant-making, health equity work, inclusive humanitarian action, microgrants and subgrants, and practical support to convert CRPD standards into country-level advocacy.

04

Regional and Thematic Highlights

Presents selected areas of IDA's work across regions and themes. This includes advocacy in Africa on the African Disability Protocol and the G20, climate action and the development of a stronger disability presence in the UNFCCC process, assistive technology localisation, and national work on education, employment, social protection and community inclusion.

05

Supporting the Alliance

Explains how IDA strengthened the global disability movement itself. It highlights support to IDA members and regional networks across Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and global constituencies, showing how IDA invested in the collective infrastructure, sustainability and influence of representative OPDs.

07

Trade, Business and Innovation

Sets out IDA's growing engagement with the private sector, inclusive trade, innovation, assistive technology, digital inclusion and business accountability. It includes IDA's engagement with the Valuable 500 ecosystem and SYNC25 and explains why corporate disability inclusion must be grounded in the CRPD, OPD engagement, accessibility and measurable change.

09

Institutional Strengthening and Accountability

Looks inward at IDA's own systems. It covers governance reform, grant systems, safeguarding, risk management, internal controls, learning infrastructure and institutional resilience, while also recognizing the difficult operating environment for OPDs and civil society in 2025.

06

Knowledge, Evidence and Learning

Describes IDA's contribution to OPD-led knowledge products, training, consultation methodologies and evidence generation. It includes work on CRPD-compliant budgeting, health equity, humanitarian action, international cooperation, disability data, and the landmark study on systemic causes of premature and preventable deaths of persons with disabilities.

08

Gender Equality, Youth Leadership and Indigenous Persons with Disabilities

Shows how IDA strengthened work on intersectionality and representative leadership in 2025. It highlights advocacy led by women and girls with disabilities, youth leadership, Indigenous persons with disabilities, and efforts to ensure that global and national disability rights work reflects the full diversity of persons with disabilities.

Lessons from 2025

Identifies the main strategic lessons from the year. These include the importance of OPD leadership, the need to connect global commitments to national follow-up, the value of flexible funding, the role of regional frameworks, and the importance of strong institutional systems for credible advocacy and donor accountability

Looking Ahead to 2026

Sets out IDA's priorities for the next phase of work. It focuses on the implementation of the 2025–2030 Strategy, post-Global Disability Summit accountability, OPD-led local solutions, financing for disability inclusion, and deeper engagement across humanitarian, climate, health, education, employment and social protection systems.

Taken together, the report demonstrates a central lesson from 2025: disability inclusion advances when persons with disabilities and their representative organisations have the resources, platforms, evidence and political space to lead. IDA's work in 2025 helped move disability rights from recognition to implementation, from commitments to accountability, and from visibility to practical change in the systems that shape people's lives.



KEY FIGURES

IDA improved the lives of 23 million people with disabilities in 2025

In 2025, IDA contributed to tangible improvements in the lives and rights of an estimated 23 million persons with disabilities by strengthening the OPD-led systems that determine whether people can access education, health care, assistive technology, social protection, employment, humanitarian assistance, community inclusion and public decision-making. This figure represents IDA's contribution to systems change, rather than a direct service-delivery count. It captures persons with disabilities whose rights, visibility, protection and opportunities were advanced through stronger OPD advocacy, improved coordination, more inclusive laws and policies, better accountability mechanisms, and the embedding of disability rights in national, regional and global decision-making.

IDA's impact in 2025 was achieved through a distinctive model: investing in representative organisations of persons with disabilities so they can influence the systems that shape people's lives at scale. Across a wider portfolio spanning 67 countries, OPDs advanced work on CRPD implementation, health equity, education, employment, social protection, humanitarian response, climate resilience, assistive technology and community inclusion. Across 16 intensive country pathways, IDA supported OPD-led advocacy, grant-making, CRPD accountability, assistive technology localisation, mental health advocacy, sexual and reproductive health and rights, refugee inclusion, climate action and inclusive education reforms in contexts where persons with disabilities face deep structural barriers.



The scale of this work demonstrates the catalytic power of the global disability movement. In 2025, IDA delivered impact across the board...

203

OPDs supported, with more than half led by women, youth or underrepresented groups

109

disability-related laws and policies advanced

904

OPD-led initiatives enabled

98

strategic resources whose use was supported

116

UN resolutions influenced

55

major global platforms, forums and events with disability movement representation

Behind these figures are people with disabilities gaining stronger representation, clearer routes to accountability, better access to decision-makers, and greater influence over the policies, budgets and services that affect their daily lives. In practical terms, IDA helped ensure that millions more persons with disabilities were better represented in the systems that determine access, dignity, autonomy and inclusion.

Embedding Disability Rights Across International Agendas

IDA's global advocacy in 2025 focused on ensuring that disability rights were integrated into the major policy processes shaping the next phase of international cooperation. The year required sustained engagement across human rights, health, humanitarian action, peace and security, climate, financing, technology, inclusive education and social development. IDA's role was both technical and political: providing analysis grounded in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities while creating space for OPDs to influence negotiations directly.

IDA's advocacy connected global policy change to community-level impact by supporting OPDs to bring lived experience and representative needs into negotiations and by ensuring that the resulting policy language could later be used by OPDs in national advocacy, budget work, legal reform and accountability.



The Global Disability Summit 2025 was IDA's defining global achievement of the year and one of the most important moments for the disability rights movement since the adoption of the CRPD. Held in Berlin on 2–3 April 2025, the Summit was co-hosted by the Governments of Germany and Jordan together with IDA. Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development described the purpose of the Summit as advancing global implementation of the CRPD through development-focused support. As the permanent co-host of the Global Disability Summit, IDA played a central role in shaping the agenda, anchoring OPD leadership, mobilising participation, and ensuring that the Summit remained a credible global mechanism for accountability, not simply a high-level event.

The scale of GDS 2025 demonstrated the growing political weight of disability inclusion. The Summit brought together more than 4,700 participants from over 160 countries, including heads of state, ministers, government officials, organisations of persons with disabilities, civil society, multilateral agencies, donors, the private sector and other key actors. The programme included more than 60 sessions and culminated in over 800 commitments across areas including inclusive education, employment, healthcare, social protection, humanitarian action, accessibility and the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities. This made the Summit a major platform for translating the CRPD into concrete policy, financing and implementation commitments across countries and sectors.



IDA's role was to ensure that the Summit was shaped by the disability movement itself. In the lead-up to Berlin, IDA worked with members, regional networks, OPDs, governments and partners to make sure that OPD priorities were reflected before commitments were made. The regional summits and thematic pre-summits (on inclusive education with the World Bank & Cambridge University, and on health equity with the WHO) built momentum and advanced regional agendas and catalytic funding for regional OPDs. The Summit itself was marked by diverse representation, including persons with disabilities from underrepresented groups, Indigenous communities, conflict-affected regions and rural areas, as well as youth with disabilities, women with disabilities and LGBTQIA+ persons with disabilities. The Civil Society Forum, held on 1 April 2025, brought together over 1,500 participants, creating a dedicated space for OPDs, civil society and allies to sharpen advocacy messages on accountability, participation and rights-based approaches ahead of the formal Summit.

A central outcome of GDS 2025 was the Amman-Berlin Declaration, which set a new global ambition: the "15 per cent for the 15 per cent" target. This was especially significant in a year when development funding was under pressure and inclusion itself was being questioned in some political spaces. GDS 2025 conveyed a vitally important and positive message: that disability inclusion is central to development effectiveness, human rights, social justice and democratic participation. The Summit showed that the global disability movement could convene governments, donors, UN agencies, philanthropy, civil society and business around a shared accountability agenda. It also created a stronger framework for OPDs to ask governments and development partners what has been funded, what has been implemented, and what has changed in people's lives.

For IDA, the Summit's importance lies not only in the numbers but also in the model of change it represents. GDS 2025 connected global political leadership with OPD-led accountability. It created a bridge between commitments made in Berlin and advocacy that can now happen in capitals, ministries, parliaments, donor offices, humanitarian coordination structures and local communities. The commitments portal provides a basis for transparent monitoring, enabling OPDs and partners to track whether promises are followed by action. This is the core of IDA's role: ensuring that global commitments become tools for national implementation.

GLAD and donor coordination

At a time of significant challenge for the donor community and for international cooperation, IDA deepened its engagement with the GLAD Network, strengthening its role as the global platform for disability inclusion and donor coordination in development and humanitarian action. This was very much needed in 2025. The announcement of new co-chair - the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office - marked an important milestone. GLAD's working groups continued to provide technical leadership on inclusive health, inclusive education, climate action, financing for development, the Amman-Berlin Declaration, livelihoods and gender equality. This work helped consolidate a space where donors, governments, UN agencies and OPDs can coordinate around practical disability inclusion priorities rather than fragmented initiatives. For donors, GLAD offers a platform to align investment with OPD leadership, CRPD standards and measurable accountability.

Financing for development

In 2025, IDA made its first submission to the OECD-DAC to redesign the guidelines on the disability marker and engaged successfully in the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, including the outcome document. IDA's advocacy emphasised that disability inclusion must be embedded in mainstream development finance and in adequately resourced disability-specific projects. The development of an inclusive financing platform and engagement with the Sevilla Action Platform reflected IDA's broader push for disability inclusion to become a measurable, funded and accountable part of international cooperation.

This is central to IDA's contribution to development effectiveness. Disability inclusion cannot be achieved if it remains marginal in budgets, public finance systems and development cooperation. IDA developed tools for OPDs to track commitments, understand new and innovative financing models, and demand that mainstream investments – in health, education, employment, social protection, climate action, humanitarian response, and infrastructure – are disability-inclusive from the outset.



CRPD, treaty bodies and human rights accountability – the backbone of disability rights

18

GLOBAL INFLUENCE

In 2025, IDA continued to support OPDs to use the CRPD Committee and the wider UN human rights system as tools for national accountability. OPDs contributed to 34 submissions across 32 State review processes, with 32 groups of OPDs engaging either in person or online. IDA also supported thematic submissions across treaty bodies and global processes, including on disability inclusion in international tax cooperation. This work helped ensure that treaty body reviews were informed by the evidence, priorities and lived experience of persons with disabilities themselves.

In 2025, the Committee reviewed or considered Canada, the Dominican Republic, the European Union, Palau, Tuvalu, Viet Nam, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Finland, Kiribati, Maldives and the State of Palestine / Occupied Palestinian Territory. The 32nd session, held in March 2025, covered Canada, the Dominican Republic, the European Union, Palau, Tuvalu and Viet Nam. The 33rd session, held in August 2025, covered or considered the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea, Finland, Kiribati, Maldives and the State of Palestine, including the situation of persons with disabilities affected by war in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

IDA's role was to help OPDs prepare for constructive dialogues, engage with Committee members; follow the review process; use concluding observations as practical advocacy tools, and contribute to ongoing debates on language for General Comments and other CRPD guidance (on humanitarian settings, intersectional discrimination, violence, etc.). At the 33rd session, IDA supported OPDs and partners from Kiribati, Finland, the Maldives and the Occupied Palestinian Territory to engage with the Committee. IDA also supported preparatory work for future reviews, including through the pre-sessional processes for Armenia, Egypt, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone, Colombia, Iceland, Ireland, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Cyprus and Luxembourg.



IDA also used the 2025 CRPD sessions to defend the accessibility and credibility of the treaty body system itself. At the opening and closing of the 32nd session, IDA raised serious concerns about the discontinuation of national sign language interpretation during constructive dialogues and the lack of full reasonable accommodation support within UN conference services. This advocacy placed accessibility, sign language interpretation and non-discrimination against deaf persons at the centre of institutional discussions on how the CRPD Committee functions. The Committee's 2025 work also advanced IDA priorities on Article 11 through the draft General Comment on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and on Article 29 through the Day of General Discussion on political participation.

IDA's engagement extended beyond the CRPD Committee. Disability inclusion was increasingly reflected in broader treaty body and human rights discussions on migration, xenophobia, environmental rights, economic and social rights, intersectional discrimination and international cooperation. This gave OPDs a wider set of mechanisms to use in national advocacy, including with governments, parliaments, national human rights institutions, UN country teams and donors.

IDA also had the leading advocacy role around the United Nations General Assembly Third Committee resolution on implementation of the CRPD and its Optional Protocol. IDA helped defend and strengthen a human rights-based understanding of disability inclusion in all its diversity. The resolution's focus on "amplified barriers in diverse contexts" was significant because it recognised that persons with disabilities are not a homogeneous group and that exclusion is intensified by intersecting factors including gender, age, poverty, displacement, conflict, climate risk and discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender

identity. Despite attempts to weaken this intersectional language, the final resolution reaffirmed that CRPD implementation must address the full diversity of persons with disabilities and ensure that no group is made invisible.

IDA's engagement with the Human Rights Council also helped move disability inclusion into a wider range of Council resolutions. Across the 58th, 59th and 60th sessions, IDA's advocacy contributed to disability references in resolutions on conflict, humanitarian crises, education, digital technologies, internal displacement, violence against women and girls, climate change, Indigenous Peoples, health, maternal mortality, economic, social and cultural rights, neurotechnology, anti-personnel mines, the death penalty and country situations, including Ukraine, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Colombia, South Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Nicaragua and Belarus.





The strongest Human Rights Council outcomes moved beyond general references toward more concrete, CRPD-aligned language. Important gains included references to inclusive victim assistance for mine survivors; participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations in peace, recovery and reconstruction; accessible implementation of economic, social and cultural rights; inclusive education; digital accessibility; protection and support for internally displaced persons with disabilities; safeguards in the use of neurotechnologies; procedural accommodation; disability-inclusive health equity; and OPD consultation, participation and accountability. The Council also increasingly recognised accessibility in its own working methods, including accessible meetings, accessible reports, easy-to-read formats and accessible participation in mandated activities.

Each Human Rights Council session showed a distinct area of progress. At the 58th session, disability inclusion appeared across 32 resolutions, including on anti-personnel mines, Ukraine, economic, social and cultural rights, neurotechnology, environmental harms, South Sudan, Nicaragua and Belarus. At the 59th session, disability inclusion was especially visible in resolutions on the right to education, new and emerging digital technologies, internally displaced persons, violence against women and girls, Myanmar, Colombia and climate change. At the 60th session, disability inclusion appeared across some of the most urgent issues before the Council, including Afghanistan, eastern DRC, sea-level rise, maternal mortality and Indigenous Peoples' rights. The Somalia resolution was particularly significant for its references to national disability legislation, disability data, digital inclusion, political participation and consultation with OPDs.

Article 11 - Conflict and humanitarian emergencies

A significant strand of IDA's 2025 work concerned Article 11 of the CRPD due to conflicts in Gaza, Ukraine, South Sudan and other contexts exposing persons with disabilities to heightened risks. During the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, IDA helped unite the disability movement around Article 11 and the urgent need for disability-inclusive protection, humanitarian response and accountability. We worked with the CRPD Committee on the General Comment on Article 11 throughout the year, supported OPDs from Gaza in a special session of the CRPD Committee and in engagements with the UN system in Geneva, and monitored violations of the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of crisis across the world.

IDA's engagement in peace and security also contributed to stronger references to persons with disabilities in UN Security Council-related work and engagement with the Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine. IDA strengthened its advocacy towards the United Nations Security Council to ensure that persons with disabilities are recognized within the Council's work on peace, security, humanitarian action and political transition. A significant marker of progress was the Security Council's 2025 recognition, including in Resolution 2779 on South Sudan, of the importance of the full, safe, meaningful and diverse inclusion of persons with disabilities in political and electoral processes. This built on wider official Council documentation in 2025 referring to the rights and participation of persons with disabilities in conflict and post-conflict settings, building on the landmark UNSC resolution 2475.



The Humanitarian reset (announced in March 2025) was a dominant focus of the year for IDA, as IDA continued to serve as co-chair and secretariat of the Disability Reference Group, a global mechanism supporting implementation of the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. The group brings together humanitarian actors, OPDs, UN agencies, civil society organisations and

technical experts. Its recognition as an associated entity within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee strengthened the basis for system-wide accountability, which was very much needed during 2025 as we pushed for a disability-inclusive approach to the humanitarian reset, including by making sure that those most in need with highest support needs were prioritized.



Ukraine – Article 11, conflict and reconstruction

In Ukraine, IDA's work connected the realities of war, displacement and institutionalisation risk with global advocacy on the General Comment on Article 11 of the CRPD. OPDs and partners documented how persons with disabilities were affected by conflict, including barriers to evacuation, accessible shelter, health care, rehabilitation, assistive technology, information and community support. IDA helped bring these concerns into international accountability and reconstruction discussions, reinforcing that persons with disabilities must be included

in protection, recovery and rebuilding from the start. This country experience also informed IDA's engagement with the CRPD Committee, the Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, and wider advocacy on disability-inclusive humanitarian action. The feedback loop moved from the lived experience of persons with disabilities in conflict to international legal and policy advocacy and back toward stronger OPD leverage in recovery, reconstruction and accountability processes.

World Social Summit 2025 – Doha Declaration

IDA played a decisive advocacy role in ensuring that the Doha Political Declaration of the Second World Summit for Social Development became a meaningful instrument for disability inclusion. The Summit, held in Doha from 4–6 November 2025, was convened to renew global commitment to the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and to accelerate action on poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and social integration.



This was an important advocacy achievement because disability inclusion was not sufficiently embedded across the early negotiation process. Initial drafts contained very limited reference to persons with disabilities and did not reflect the centrality of OPDs to social development. IDA therefore worked to bring OPDs and persons with disabilities into the core social development agenda, including poverty, employment, inclusive societies, social protection, health, education, housing, digital transformation and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The Doha outcome was significant because it turned the World Social Summit into a platform for CRPD-aligned social transformation. The Declaration now gives OPDs a stronger basis to demand national implementation, budget allocation, accessible services, inclusive social protection, decent work, and participation in follow-up and accountability processes. It also connects the social development agenda to the wider priorities that shaped IDA's work in 2025: financing for disability inclusion, the Global Disability Summit commitments, health equity, inclusive education, humanitarian action, employment, social protection and community inclusion.

In a year when development systems were under pressure and the value of inclusion was being questioned, IDA helped ensure that the global social development agenda reaffirmed a clear principle: social progress cannot be achieved while 1.3 billion persons with disabilities remain excluded from the systems that shape dignity, equality and opportunity.



MOVEMENT STRENGTHENING

Investing in OPD Leadership and National Change

IDA's second major contribution in 2025 was strengthening the capacity, visibility and influence of OPDs at national, regional and global levels. This is central to IDA's theory of change: disability inclusion becomes real when representative OPDs have the resources, skills, relationships and legitimacy to influence the systems that govern people's lives.

In 2025, IDA supported 104 OPDs to participate actively in global forums, UN processes and policy dialogues and strengthened 81 OPDs through programming. Five national advocacy plans based on CRPD concluding observations were supported, helping OPDs convert international standards into country-specific advocacy strategies.

IDA's technical accompaniment support helped OPDs to prepare substantive inputs, understand technical policy issues, develop advocacy messages, build relationships with decision-makers, use evidence, engage safely and follow up after global or regional processes.



National advocacy and grant pathways

In 2025, IDA-supported national advocacy and grant pathways operated across 16 countries: Cambodia, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Kiribati, Lebanon, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Syria, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These pathways supported OPD-led advocacy and coordination on CRPD implementation, national accountability, sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health, inclusive education, assistive technology, employment, refugee rights, climate action, community inclusion, inclusive tourism and the rights of women, girls, youth, refugees, displaced persons and landmine survivors with disabilities.

These countries represent diverse realities: conflict and displacement, climate vulnerability, institutional transition,

underfunded services, fragile humanitarian systems, and barriers to participation in public life. IDA's approach was therefore not to impose a generic agenda but to support OPDs to use CRPD standards, treaty body recommendations and regional frameworks to address the priorities and opportunities in their own contexts.

In Niger, OPD advocacy connected CRPD implementation with inclusive education, social protection and humanitarian coordination. In Ukraine, OPD engagement was shaped by the realities of armed conflict, displacement, institutionalisation risks and Article 11 obligations. In Lebanon and Syria, advocacy planning had to account for crisis, economic pressure, institutional instability and humanitarian response systems. In Kenya, OPD advocacy was linked to health equity, public health systems, accessibility, informed consent, data and accountability. Across these contexts, the common result was stronger OPD capacity to use international standards in country-specific advocacy.



Health equity was a major area of movement strengthening and policy engagement in 2025. Persons with disabilities continue to face discrimination, inaccessible services, denial of informed consent, exclusion from public health information, lack of reasonable accommodation, barriers to sexual and reproductive health services, and lower quality of care. These barriers are shaped by ableism and by systems that are not designed with persons with disabilities.

IDA's work challenged this by positioning persons with disabilities as rights-holders and OPDs as essential partners in health systems reform. IDA placed particular emphasis on women and girls with disabilities, including their participation in health policy and service design, and on the need to address historic marginalization in sexual and reproductive health, public health outreach, mental health and psychosocial support, and protection from violence.

A key activity was a Kenya-based health equity training delivered to a wide group of OPDs from across South-East and West Africa. The training strengthened rights-based and technically grounded advocacy on health systems and helped OPDs frame disability inclusion as a concrete systems issue. Participants worked on how to engage ministries of health, regulators, development actors and service providers with precise policy asks.

IDA also engaged with the finalised draft WHO Pandemic Agreement, welcoming it as an important step toward more equitable and inclusive global health systems while identifying the need for stronger disability-specific implementation. IDA's message was clear: persons with disabilities must not be treated only as a risk group in health emergencies. They must be recognised as rights-holders, contributors to public health planning, community leaders and accountability actors.

Kenya - Health equity

In Kenya, IDA's health equity work created a feedback loop between OPD experience, technical advocacy and health systems reform. OPDs brought forward evidence of the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing health care, including inaccessible facilities, weak communication access, discrimination, lack of reasonable accommodation, and exclusion from public health planning. IDA supported a Kenya-based health equity training that helped OPDs translate these lived realities into concrete advocacy asks for the Ministry of Health, regulators, development partners and

service providers. The learning from Kenya then strengthened IDA's global advocacy on disability inclusion in health systems, including pandemic preparedness, health equity, informed consent, accessible services and the role of OPDs in health governance. The loop is clear: barriers identified by persons with disabilities informed OPD advocacy; OPD advocacy shaped stronger health systems messages; and those messages now provide a basis for further national action in Kenya and beyond.

Inclusive humanitarian action

Disability-inclusive humanitarian action remained a core priority in 2025. In emergencies, persons with disabilities are often excluded from evacuation, early warning, shelter, food distribution, health care, vaccination, protection, cash assistance, psychosocial support and information systems. These exclusions can be fatal.

In 2025, IDA expanded our in-person training and accompaniment on inclusive humanitarian action, particularly with OPDs from West and East Africa. A new humanitarian training curriculum was delivered in Nairobi in November 2025, equipping humanitarian actors and OPDs

with practical tools for inclusive response. The work focused on accessible needs assessment, inclusive targeting, accessible communication, accountability to affected populations, and the use of CRPD standards in crisis contexts.

IDA also advanced practical, country-level engagement on the humanitarian reset by supporting national organisations of persons with disabilities to advocate directly with Humanitarian Country Teams and Humanitarian Coordinators. Recognizing that global humanitarian reform will only be meaningful if it changes practice at country level, IDA initiated outreach in approximately



ten priority crisis-affected countries, including Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Guatemala, Lebanon, Myanmar, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, South Sudan, Syria and Ukraine. IDA identified relevant national umbrella OPDs and other active representative organisations with the capacity to engage humanitarian leadership in-country. To support this work, IDA developed a short, practical advocacy tool to help OPDs raise clear demands on accessibility, participation, protection, accountability and inclusion in humanitarian coordination. This work complemented wider Disability Reference Group training materials by reaching OPDs in countries not yet covered through formal training, while laying the foundation for expanded engagement in 2026.

The change was practical and urgent. OPDs strengthened their ability to engage humanitarian actors in operational terms, while humanitarian partners were encouraged to recognize OPDs as essential counterparts in crisis response.

South Sudan - Humanitarian action

In South Sudan, IDA's humanitarian action work created a feedback loop between crisis-affected persons with disabilities, national OPD engagement and global advocacy on inclusive humanitarian reform.

Persons with disabilities in South Sudan face acute barriers in conflict, displacement and humanitarian response, including exclusion from needs assessments, inaccessible information, weak protection systems, barriers to services and limited participation in coordination structures. In 2025, IDA supported engagement with OPDs from South Sudan through its wider humanitarian training and accompaniment work in East Africa, helping strengthen practical advocacy on accessibility, inclusive targeting, accountability to affected populations and the role of OPDs in humanitarian coordination.

Lessons from South Sudan also reinforced IDA's global advocacy on Article 11 of the CRPD, the humanitarian reset and the implementation of the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

The feedback loop is clear: persons with disabilities and OPDs identify what is failing in humanitarian practice; IDA helps translate those realities into practical advocacy tools and global policy messages; and OPDs are better positioned to engage Humanitarian Country Teams and Humanitarian Coordinators so that humanitarian reform reaches people in crisis.

Microgrants and subgrants: small investments, practical impact

IDA's microgrant and subgrant mechanisms demonstrated how small, flexible investments can generate practical impact while strengthening OPD capacity. Thirteen microgrants reached 1,165 people through assistive technology awareness and related activities. Across programme locations, OPDs delivered practical activities covering health, inclusive education, assistive technology, legal capacity, psychosocial disability, humanitarian action and climate response.

Several subgrants demonstrated the power of OPD convening. AOPD and AFOWD convened the 5th Arab Regional Conference for Women with Disabilities, bringing together more than 150 participants from 18 Arab countries and producing 14 formal recommendations on legislative reform, inclusive policies, data systems and budget allocation.

FNPH in Niger delivered a national symposium on social protection, a national forum on inclusive education and a regional workshop on inclusive humanitarian action. The World Blind Union supported the participation of OPD representatives at the World Blindness Summit and General Assembly in São Paulo, including engagement in a Youth Forum with more than 300 young participants and the development of a Youth Manifesto.

Across these examples, OPDs created solutions and platforms, articulated priorities, engaged decision-makers and strengthened leadership by women and young persons with disabilities. A small grant can change what an OPD can do, how it relates to its community, and how it is perceived by government and partners.





Africa: linking CRPD advocacy and the African Disability Protocol

In Africa, IDA supported stronger links between CRPD advocacy and the African Disability Protocol. A major milestone was the African Disability Forum obtaining Observer Status, enabling OPDs from 44 countries to address the African Commission, deliver statements and participate in the Working Group on disability inclusion. This creates a formal route for OPD participation in regional human rights accountability and strengthens the bridge between African human rights mechanisms and the CRPD.

IDA also engaged in the G20 process under South Africa's Presidency, convening more than 250 OPDs and contributing to explicit references to persons with disabilities in the G20 Social Summit Outcome Document in relation to trade and financing. This expanded disability advocacy into a major economic and political forum. OPDs must be present not only in disability-specific spaces but also where economic policy, social development and financing priorities are shaped.



Climate action: organisations of persons with disabilities as climate actors

In 2025, IDA strengthened its climate change work by positioning persons with disabilities and their representative organisations as essential actors in climate justice, adaptation, resilience and accountability. As climate impacts intensified across regions, IDA's advocacy emphasised that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by extreme weather, disasters, displacement, food insecurity, inaccessible early warning systems and disrupted services, while still being too often excluded from climate decision-making. IDA's message was clear: climate action cannot be effective, just or rights-based unless persons with disabilities are included in planning, financing, implementation and monitoring from the outset.

negotiations, agree common messages and engage more effectively with governments, UN agencies, climate actors and civil society. Through this work, IDA helped move disability inclusion in climate policy from isolated interventions towards organised, collective advocacy.

This engagement reinforced IDA's broader systems-change approach: persons with disabilities must be recognised not only as people at heightened risk from the climate crisis but also as climate actors with knowledge, leadership and solutions. IDA's advocacy in 2025 advanced clear demands on accessible early warning systems, disability-inclusive adaptation, inclusive loss and damage responses, accessible climate



A major focus of this work was strengthening the collective voice of OPDs within global climate policy. Ahead of and during COP30 in Belém, Brazil, IDA helped convene OPDs and disability rights allies to build a more coordinated disability presence in the UNFCCC process. This included supporting the development of the Disability Climate Caucus as a space for OPDs to coordinate positions, share intelligence from

finance, just transition, inclusive disaster risk reduction and the meaningful participation of OPDs in national climate plans. By strengthening OPD coordination and supporting the Disability Climate Caucus in Belém, IDA helped build the infrastructure for a stronger, more visible and more accountable disability movement presence in global climate action.

Assistive technology and inclusive systems

Assistive technology remained central to IDA's systems-change agenda. Through ATscale Round 3, IDA supported work in Kiribati, Cambodia and Kenya focused on building OPD capacity on assistive technology, empowering women with disabilities through assistive technology, and strengthening OPD-led localisation of national commitments. IDA also coordinated

with partners including WHO and UNICEF to promote OPD leadership and localisation. IDA's role is to ensure that assistive technology policies and programmes are shaped by persons with disabilities themselves, including in market shaping and the development of public goods at international, regional, and national levels.

Kiribati - Assistive technology and women with disabilities

In Kiribati, IDA's assistive technology work demonstrated how a focused technical theme can become a pathway for broader inclusion. Through ATscale-supported work, OPDs strengthened their capacity to engage on assistive technology policy, access and localisation, with particular attention to the leadership and needs of women with disabilities. The feedback loop began with persons with disabilities identifying the practical consequences of missing or inaccessible assistive technology: reduced

mobility, isolation, exclusion from education and work, and barriers to participation in community life. OPDs then used IDA-supported capacity-building to engage more confidently with national stakeholders and partners on assistive technology as a rights issue, not only a product or service issue. The learning from Kiribati also fed into IDA's global advocacy with partners such as WHO and UNICEF, reinforcing the importance of OPD leadership in assistive technology systems. This loop connects individual autonomy, national systems and global policy practice.



Education, employment, social protection and community inclusion

IDA-supported national pathways also addressed inclusive education, employment, social protection and community inclusion. In the first set of country pathways, OPDs in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe worked on sexual and reproductive health and rights, mental health and inclusive education, with cross-cutting attention to women with disabilities, refugees and displaced girls with disabilities, advocacy and OPD coordination.

A second round of grants supported work in Rwanda, Cameroon, Malawi, Uganda, Mozambique and Zambia on community inclusion for landmine survivors and

marginalised groups, gainful employment for youth with disabilities, refugee rights, inclusive agglomeration, inclusive tourism, climate change and mental health advocacy.

These impact of these grants is significant in showing OPD-led local solutions and because they connect global rights standards to everyday life: whether a child can go to school; whether a young person can earn a living; whether a refugee with a disability can access assistance; whether a landmine survivor can participate in community life; whether social protection reaches persons with disabilities who need it; and whether mental health advocacy is grounded in human rights and lived experience.

Niger - Social protection, inclusive education and humanitarian coordination

In Niger, IDA-supported OPD advocacy linked three urgent areas of daily life: social protection, inclusive education and humanitarian coordination. OPDs used CRPD standards and national advocacy planning to identify where persons with disabilities were being excluded from public systems, including education services, social protection schemes and humanitarian response. Through national convening, including work led by FNPH, OPDs created spaces to engage government and humanitarian actors on practical reforms.

This generated a feedback loop between community priorities, national policy dialogue and regional learning: persons with disabilities identified barriers; OPDs translated them into policy demands; decision-makers were engaged through national forums and workshops; and the lessons strengthened IDA's wider understanding of how social protection, education and humanitarian action must be connected in fragile contexts. Niger shows how OPD-led advocacy can move from issue identification to practical national engagement across several systems that directly affect people's lives.

SUPPORTING THE ALLIANCE

Strengthening the global disability movement

A defining strength of IDA is that it is a global alliance built by and for organisations of persons with disabilities. Throughout 2025, IDA invested in the collective strength, leadership, institutional resilience and advocacy capacity of its member organisations across regions and constituencies. This support ranged from strategic policy engagement and technical accompaniment to operational support, coordination, movement-building and institutional strengthening.



In Africa, IDA worked closely with the African Disability Forum to advance advocacy around ratification and implementation of the African Disability Protocol, and to support joint advocacy linked to the G20 process under South Africa's presidency. In the Middle East and North Africa region, IDA supported the Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities in dialogue with the CRPD Committee and UN agencies concerning the humanitarian and human rights situation in Gaza.

IDA deepened its partnership with the ASEAN Disability Forum through institutional accompaniment and organisational development support. A comprehensive organisational strengthening and development plan was developed to support the Forum's long-term sustainability, governance, operational capacity and regional influence across Southeast Asia.

Collaboration with Down Syndrome International focused on advancing health equity for persons with Down syndrome. IDA supported efforts to strengthen advocacy around equitable access to healthcare, inclusive health systems and visibility within broader global health and disability policy discussions.



IDA worked closely with the European Disability Forum on international financing and accountability issues, particularly around the OECD-DAC disability marker and the Financing for Development agenda emerging from Sevilla. Partnership with Inclusion International included coordination around implementation of Education Cannot Wait commitments and efforts to strengthen inclusive education advocacy in humanitarian and crisis settings.

IDA coordinated with the International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus on advocacy relating to the updated WHO Priority Assistive Products List. Institutional support was also provided to the International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, contributing to continuity of operations and organisational sustainability.

IDA worked alongside the Pacific Disability Forum to strengthen disaster risk and climate advocacy and preparations for COP30. In Latin America, IDA supported RIADIS in the development of a regional report on health equity, strengthening evidence-based advocacy on systemic barriers to healthcare.

Support to the World Blind Union included assistance in the holding of its General Assembly, helping facilitate inclusive participation and movement governance at global level. IDA also maintained a close partnership with the World Federation of the Deafblind, including support to the Secretariat, operational and institutional strengthening, and joint advocacy that contributed to the establishment of the International Day of Deafblindness. Support to the World Federation of the Deaf included Secretariat support for a human rights adviser position. IDA also accompanied the World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry through organisational strengthening, reform and mental health advocacy support.

Across all regions and constituencies, IDA's support to members reflected a consistent strategic approach: investing in representative OPDs as the central actors of disability-inclusive change. IDA's role is to strengthen the collective capacity, influence, sustainability and coordination of the global disability movement itself.



KNOWLEDGE, EVIDENCE AND LEARNING

In 2025, IDA produced or substantively contributed to 15 OPD-led knowledge products. Eight such products were cited, referenced or used to influence other publications or policy discussions. These knowledge products helped shift debates from general inclusion to concrete accountability: what standards apply, who is responsible, what evidence is available, what OPDs are demanding, and how implementation can be monitored.

Inequality in Life and Death: The Duty to Investigate and Remedy the Systemic Causes of the Deaths of Persons with Disabilities under International Law

Gerard Quinn - Former UN Special Rapporteur

This global study was one of the year's most significant knowledge contributions. The study opened a new field of disability rights advocacy by showing how premature and preventable deaths of persons with disabilities are often misclassified as natural when they actually reflect accumulated inequality, institutional neglect, service failure, social isolation, violence or other systemic causes.

IDA also advanced learning infrastructure. We developed learning materials for OPDs on CRPD-compliant budgeting practices, health equity, humanitarian action, international cooperation, organisational strengthening, and deinstitutionalisation. We strengthened consultation methodologies across multiple initiatives to ensure meaningful and representative OPD participation. We supported data collection and knowledge surveys, including work on health equity for women with disabilities, ratification of the African Disability Protocol and Beijing+30 advocacy for disabled women in Africa. IDA's role is to continue to make technical knowledge usable, accessible and strategically relevant for OPDs across the world.



TRADE, BUSINESS AND INNOVATION

In 2025, IDA expanded its engagement with innovation, business and the private sector as part of a broader strategy to ensure that disability inclusion is built into the systems shaping the future of work, technology, services, finance and markets.

Across its work on assistive technology, health systems, digital inclusion, inclusive employment, financing and accountability, IDA emphasised that businesses have a critical role to play in removing barriers, expanding access and investing in solutions that improve the daily lives of persons with disabilities. This engagement also reinforced the importance of moving towards measurable change in leadership, reporting, procurement, representation, product design and workforce inclusion.

A key moment in this area was IDA's engagement with the Valuable 500 ecosystem, including the **SYNC25 Accountability Summit in Tokyo**. SYNC25 was convened by the Valuable 500, The Nippon Foundation and Nikkei Inc. on 3–4 December 2025, bringing together CEOs, C-suite leaders and representatives of the disability community to accelerate disability inclusion in business. The Summit focused on accountability and “Synchronised Collective Action”, including leadership, reporting and representation. For IDA, this engagement created an important bridge between the global disability rights movement and major private sector actors. It provided a platform to reinforce that persons with disabilities must not be treated only as consumers, employees or beneficiaries of innovation but as leaders, experts, entrepreneurs and rights-holders whose lived experience must shape business practice.

Tokyo
3-4 December 2025

**SYNC25
Accountability
Summit**

IDA used this work to promote a stronger connection between corporate disability inclusion and the CRPD. Business action on disability must support, not replace, State obligations, but can be aimed at developing private sector partnerships that are grounded in OPD engagement, accessible design, inclusive data, responsible technology, and investment in solutions that reach persons with disabilities in all their diversity, including:



This area of work helped position IDA for deeper engagement in 2026 with business, philanthropy, innovation platforms and financing actors. The opportunity ahead is to connect private sector ambition with disability movement leadership: ensuring that inclusive business contributes to inclusive societies, that innovation responds to real barriers, and that corporate accountability is measured by practical improvements in access, employment, representation, autonomy and participation for persons with disabilities.

In 2025, IDA also began to position inclusive trade as an important frontier for disability rights and economic justice. Trade policy, investment, supply chains, digital markets, procurement, tourism, infrastructure and services all shape whether persons with disabilities can access decent work,

entrepreneurship, assistive technology, accessible products, inclusive transport and participation in economic life. IDA's advocacy emphasised that disability inclusion should be embedded in trade and economic cooperation from the outset, including through accessibility standards, inclusive procurement, support for disability-led enterprises, accessible digital commerce, and the removal of barriers that prevent persons with disabilities from participating as workers, consumers, entrepreneurs and innovators. Looking ahead, IDA will continue to explore how trade agreements, development finance, regional economic strategies and private sector partnerships can advance CRPD-aligned inclusion, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where economic exclusion remains one of the most persistent barriers to dignity, autonomy and opportunity.

GENDER EQUALITY, YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND INDIGENOUS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

In 2025, IDA strengthened its work on gender equality, youth leadership and the rights of Indigenous persons with disabilities as central dimensions of disability rights and systems change.



IDA's strategic focus on gender equality made the rights of women and girls with disabilities a priority across global advocacy, national pathways, grant-making, training, treaty body engagement and movement strengthening. Women and girls with disabilities were prioritised across OPD participation in the Global Disability Summit process, regional pre-summits, health equity advocacy, sexual and reproductive health and rights work, and national advocacy pathways. IDA supported advocacy that addressed the specific barriers faced by women and girls with disabilities, including:



Violence

Discrimination

Exclusion from health services

Lack of informed consent

Barriers to sexual and reproductive health care

Poverty

Institutionalisation

Underrepresentation in public life

Normative advancements were proposed in the CRPD Committee's work on intersectional discrimination, CEDAW reviews and jurisprudence. This work was also visible through support to women-led OPDs and regional convenings, including the 5th Arab Regional Conference for Women with Disabilities, which brought together women with disabilities from across the Arab region and generated concrete recommendations on legislation, inclusive policies, data and budgets. IDA also supported evidence and learning on health equity for women with disabilities and Beijing+30 advocacy for

disabled women in Africa, helping to ensure that gender equality agendas reflected the realities and leadership of women with disabilities.

IDA also invested in youth leadership as a core part of movement renewal and long-term change. Young persons with disabilities participated in global and regional advocacy spaces, including the Global Disability Summit process, ministerial-level engagement linked to the World Social Summit, and youth-focused movement-building activities. IDA supported young OPD leaders to move beyond symbolic

participation and engage with substantive policy issues, including inclusive education, employment, health equity, humanitarian action, climate justice, financing and political participation. Through member support, including the World Blind Union Youth Forum and the development of a Youth Manifesto, IDA helped create spaces where young persons with disabilities could define their own priorities and contribute to the future direction of the disability movement. This work reinforced a central lesson from 2025: youth leadership is essential not only for representation but also for innovation, accountability and continuity within the global disability rights movement recognised In 2025, IDA also continued to advance the rights and visibility of Indigenous persons with disabilities, recognising the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination they face as persons with disabilities and as Indigenous peoples. IDA's advocacy emphasised that Indigenous persons with disabilities must be included in the implementation of the CRPD, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and wider agendas on climate action, humanitarian response,

community inclusion, political participation and international cooperation. This was particularly important in global discussions where Indigenous persons with disabilities are often invisible, including climate policy, crisis response, development financing and treaty body accountability. IDA worked to ensure that the disability movement's advocacy reflected Indigenous perspectives and that OPDs, States and UN actors recognised the need for culturally appropriate, accessible and community-led approaches.

Across these areas, IDA's approach was grounded in intersectionality and OPD leadership. Gender equality, youth participation and Indigenous rights were not treated as separate themes but as essential to the way disability inclusion must be designed and implemented. In 2025, this approach helped strengthen global standards, improve the quality of advocacy, and ensure that disability rights work better reflected the diversity of persons with disabilities themselves. As IDA moves into 2026, it will continue to support women, youth and Indigenous persons with disabilities to lead, influence and hold systems accountable at every level.



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INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

IDA also strengthened its own institutional capacity in 2025. The organisation consolidated governance reforms, improved grant systems, expanded learning infrastructure, strengthened safeguarding and risk management, and maintained a stable foundation for the new strategic period. This included stronger board and committee oversight, clearer internal controls, improved integrity systems and more robust grant management.

The operating environment remained difficult. Civil society space continued to shrink in many countries. Humanitarian crises intensified. Funding uncertainty affected many actors, including through

the contraction of USAID-related support. OPD participation remained structurally underfunded, especially for grassroots organisations, women with disabilities, youth, Indigenous persons with disabilities, refugees with disabilities and organisations in low-resource settings.

IDA's achievements in 2025, therefore, also underscore what is still needed: sustained core support, long-term partnerships, flexible participation resources, accessibility funding, and investment in OPD-led systems change. Project funding can support important activities, but it cannot replace the institutional base required for global OPD representation.



LESSONS FROM 2025

01 **OPD leadership changes the quality of policy.**

When persons with disabilities and their representative organisations shape the agenda from the beginning, disability inclusion becomes more precise, more practical and more accountable.

02 **Global commitments matter when they are connected to national follow-up.**

The Global Disability Summit, treaty body recommendations, financing commitments and humanitarian frameworks become powerful only when OPDs can use them to demand implementation at the country level.

03 **Flexible funding is essential for systems change.**

The external environment changed rapidly during the year, and IDA's ability to adapt its formats, priorities and sequencing was crucial. Maintaining a clear results framework while allowing flexible pathways to delivery proved to be a strong implementation approach.

04 **Regional frameworks continue to strengthen global and national advocacy.**

The African Disability Protocol, regional OPD networks, and regional pre-summits created practical bridges between global standards and national realities.

05 **Institutional strength is part of impact.**

Strong governance, internal controls, safeguarding, risk management and grant systems are not separate from IDA's mission. They are what allow IDA to support OPDs, manage donor resources, convene the movement and advocate with credibility.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

In 2026

IDA will focus on implementing its 2025–2030 Strategy, strengthening post-Global Disability Summit accountability, expanding OPD-led local solutions, deepening engagement with financing actors, and advancing disability inclusion across humanitarian, climate, health, education, employment and social protection systems.

A central priority will be moving from commitments to implementation. The promises made in 2025 must translate into funded programmes, stronger laws, accessible services, inclusive systems and measurable improvements in the lives of persons with disabilities. IDA will continue to support OPDs to track commitments, influence national follow-up, engage donors and governments, and demand accountability.

IDA will also continue to invest in representative OPD leadership at all levels. This includes national-level action, regional movement strengthening, global advocacy, technical assistance, knowledge generation and stronger feedback loops between communities and global decision-making. Particular attention will be given to women, youth, Indigenous persons with disabilities, refugees with disabilities, older persons with disabilities and OPDs in fragile and under-resourced settings.



IDA seeks to contribute to improved lives and expanded opportunities for hundreds of millions of persons with disabilities. This ambition is grounded in a practical belief: disability inclusion can be achieved when systems are reshaped locally, nationally, regionally and globally with OPDs at the table.

The larger change IDA seeks is clear. Disability inclusion must become implemented rights, funded priorities and accountable systems. In 2025, IDA helped move the world closer to that goal.

The work ahead remains urgent. Persons with disabilities continue to face exclusion from schools, health systems, employment, social protection, humanitarian response, climate action, political participation and public finance. OPDs continue to operate with too little funding and too many barriers. Yet 2025 showed what is possible when representative organisations are supported to lead.



