Now is the time - our strategy to include more people with disabilities
2018 – 2023

Easy read information

DFID is the Department for International Development
This is DFID’s Strategy for Disability Inclusive Development
Why we need this strategy

We had a big meeting called our Global Disability Summit.

At the meeting leaders and politicians from around the world made promises to help people with disabilities in developing countries.

People with disabilities are treated unfairly in lots of different ways.

They are often not included or listened to. They do not get the same choices or opportunities as people without disabilities.

We want to change this.
We have written a plan called a **strategy**.

The strategy says what we will do to help people with disabilities.

**Now is the time** to work together and make our plan happen.

**The challenge – what is happening now?**

There are 1 billion people with disabilities around the world.

Most people with disabilities live in a **developing country**. This is a country where lots of poor people live.
People with disabilities do not get the same chances as other people.

They can find it hard to
- Get an education and learn new skills
- Have good healthcare
- Get a job and earn money
- Be treated with respect
- Access the technology they need
- Take part in their community

People with disabilities are treated unfairly in lots of different ways.

This can happen more to women and girls with disabilities.

We want to change this.

**The opportunity – our chance to make big changes**
We have called our strategy **Now is the time**.

This is because we need to make big changes and now is the time to make them.

Our Global Summit Meeting was the start of new big changes to include people with disabilities.

We want to make sure politicians and leaders make the changes they promised.

We want to lead the world and bring people together so everyone includes people with disabilities.

**Our vision – we will not leave anyone behind**
We want all people with disabilities to take part in life in a way that is equal to everyone else.

This means having choices and access to the same opportunities and places as people without disabilities.

It also means being treated fairly and with respect.

We want to live in a world where everyone is included and no one is left behind.

We will do this by making sure people with disabilities are Engaged — this means people with disabilities are listened to and feel
included in their communities and countries.

Empowered – this means people with disabilities are leaders and involved in making decisions.

Enjoy their human rights – this means people with disabilities are free to make their own choices and treated with respect for who they are.

This means being treated fairly and in a good way.

We also want better data and information - so we can find out more about what people with disabilities need.

Our approach – how we will do this
Over the next 5 years, we will work to include people with disabilities, so we can help them to

✓ Get an education and learn new skills
✓ Get out of poverty and meet their basic needs
✓ Earn money and have a good quality of life
✓ Help them if there is a disaster and treat them fairly and with respect

We will also

- Fight discrimination – this means people with disabilities are often treated unfairly and do not get the same chances or opportunities because they have disabilities.

We want to stop this.

- Make sure women and girls with disabilities are treated fairly and with respect.
Give people with disabilities access to technology which makes their lives easier. For example, wheelchairs or hearing aids.

**Inclusive education**

We know that more than half of all children with disabilities in poor countries do not go to school.

When children with disabilities are in school they learn less than other children.

This is because they are treated unfairly in lots of different ways.

We want to support more children with disabilities to go to school and learn.
We will run more special programmes that get more children with disabilities learning in school.

We will support more girls with disabilities to get a good education.

We will work with governments around the world and help them understand how to include children with disabilities.

We will help more schools and teachers learn the skills they need to help children with disabilities.

Social protection

Social protection helps poor people.
It helps people buy the things they need, pay for healthcare and education for their children, and get into work.

Social protection helps people get out of poverty.

People with disabilities and their families can find daily life very expensive and are more likely to be poor.

They can find it hard to access school, work or healthcare.

We know social protection gives people with disabilities more choices and opportunities.

It helps them to
✓ Get out of poverty
✓ Deal with any changes in life better
✓ Meet their needs
✓ Live on their own or with support
✓ Go to school or work

We will support governments around the world to deliver social protection services that include and help people with disabilities.

We will improve access for people with disabilities and their families to social protection services.

We will take special actions to include people with mental health conditions – these are conditions that affect how you think and feel. They can also affect how you behave.
We will work with partners to make sure people with disabilities are treated fairly and with respect in our social protection programmes.

We will collect more data on people with disabilities in our social protection programmes to find out more about people with disabilities and their lives.

**Economic empowerment**

Most people with disabilities do not have jobs. If they do have job they often do not earn much money.

There are many reasons why finding a good job is hard for people with disabilities.

This includes unfair laws and poor access to buildings and transport.
DFID has a plan called the **Economic Development Strategy.**

This plan is to help people get a job and have control over their money.

We want to help people with disabilities to access good jobs, learn new skills and earn money.

We will help governments to make the laws that support people with disabilities stronger.

We will make buildings and transport easier to access for people with disabilities.
We will help people with disabilities to use digital and online services.

We will support people with disabilities to work in businesses and to run their own businesses.

We will do this work together with other international organisations and with businesses.

**Humanitarian action**

People with disabilities can be left hurt and injured after a disaster. Sometimes they cannot get help. We want to make sure we help people with disabilities when disasters happen and make sure we treat them with respect.
People with disabilities are often not included in rescue planning and cannot get help.

We want to change this. We need to collect better information and data so we are prepared if a disaster happens.

This will help us understand who needs help the most and what stops people with disabilities from getting help.

We will do as much as we can to keep people with disabilities safe in a disaster or emergency.

We will make sure our services in disasters work to end violence and discrimination for people with disabilities.
We will look more at mental health and how disasters can affect how people with disabilities feel.

We will look at how to help people with mental health conditions in disasters and emergencies.

We will check that organisations are doing what they promised to keep people safe.

Other important issues

In all our work we will also focus on fighting discrimination so people with disabilities are treated fairly and with respect.
Everyone has the right to be treated fairly and in a good way. This includes people with disabilities.

We need leaders to work with us to make this happen. We will work together to
✓ Stop discrimination
✓ Change the way people behave

We are writing new policies and have new ideas to make sure people with disabilities are treated fairly and with respect.

Supporting women and girls with disabilities

Women and girls with disabilities can be treated unfairly and left out of things more than men and boys.
We will support work to stop discrimination against women and girls with disabilities and make sure they are treated fairly and with respect.

We will work to stop violence happening against women and girls with disabilities.

We will help women and girls with disabilities to be leaders so they are involved in making decisions and people listen to what they have to say.

We will provide special support for women and girls with disabilities and include them in all our other work.
We will change the way communities think about sex and healthcare for women with disabilities.

Make sure everyone can use technology

Technology can change the lives of people with disabilities.

Technology can help people access services and work. Getting equal access to technology is very important.

We will help more people with disabilities to use assistive technologies like wheelchairs, hearing aids and glasses.
We have a new partnership around the world called **ATscale** so that more people can get help from technology.

We want to help people with disabilities to get the right health care.

This means physical and mental health care.

We will listen to what people with disabilities tell us and include them in our plans.

**Mental health and finding it hard to be in society**

*Mental health* is part of being healthy. It is about how you feel inside.
Sometimes how you think, feel and behave with other people can make it hard to take part in society.

A mental health condition or psychosocial disability is a condition that affects how you think and feel.

They can also affect how you behave.

Many people with mental health conditions are not able to get the help they need. Many are treated unfairly.

We want to change how the world includes and supports people with mental health conditions.
We will make sure we have the skills in DFID to do more on mental health.

We will support people with psychosocial disabilities to be leaders and be involved in making decisions.

We will make sure there is access services in the community and make sure people with mental health conditions are treated fairly and with respect.

Psychosocial disabilities and mental health conditions can sometimes start or get worse when people have been through a big disaster or emergency.
We will do more to help adults and children get mental health support in disasters and emergencies.

We are working with partners to do this.

We will do more to make big changes in health and wellbeing so all people with disabilities can have better mental health.

Including people with disabilities in all our DFID work

We want to include disability in everything we do. We want to help
other groups and organisations do this too.

We have made some new standards to change the way we do our work in DFID.

We will work with DFID departments and offices over the next 5 years using our new standards.

Our standards are

**DFID’s approach and culture**—this means making sure we include disability in all our plans and work and get more people with disabilities working at DFID
Engaging and empowering people with disabilities – this means we will listen to and support people with disabilities and their groups and include them in all our work.

Influencing other people – this means working with other governments and partners and supporting them to include people with disabilities in all their work.

Programming – this means including people with disabilities in all our programmes.

Data and evidence – this means collecting data and information to find out more about people with disabilities and their lives.

Living our values.
We must make sure all staff with disabilities at DFID are treated fairly and with respect.

We will

✓ Have more people with disabilities working for us at DFID
✓ Keep more staff with disabilities working with us for longer and help them to get better jobs
✓ Make our working culture a better place for people with disabilities – this means in our offices in the UK and around the world

We will support staff with disabilities and make sure they can get training and help from our different networks.

We will make sure companies who provide DFID with products and services include people with disabilities in their work.
Looking forward to the future

Making sure we keep our promises

We must keep our promises to people with disabilities and make the changes we promised at the Global Summit meeting.

We cannot end poverty if we do not keep our promises.

We will set up a new group to keep track of this work. This group is called the Disability Inclusion Delivery Board.

They will meet 4 times a year to check all the work in our strategy gets done.
We will meet with groups of people with disabilities to check with them that our work is good.

We will keep working with new groups across the world so that people with disabilities are included.

Learning from what we do

We will choose champions on disability inclusion in every DFID team to make sure we are doing everything we can to include people with disabilities.

We will learn as much as we can from programmes around the world. We will
get support from our new **Disability Inclusive Development Programme** to do this.

We will make sure our staff are trained how to include people with disabilities in our work.

We will share what we learn with other groups and hold each other to our promises.

**Checking our work is done well**

The Independent Commission on Aid Impact checks on the money DFID spends. They have written a report on us. We used this report to help us write our new strategy.