



**Global
Disability
Fund**

GLOBAL DISABILITY FUND STRATEGY 2025-2030

**From global commitments to local change,
through collective action**



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Acronyms

CRPD	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
GBV	Gender-based violence
GDF	Global Disability Fund
IDA	International Disability Alliance
LMIC	Low- and middle-income countries
OPD	Organization of persons with disabilities
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNCT	UN Country Team
UNDIS	UN Disability Inclusion Strategy
UNPRPD	UN Partnership for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (renamed GDF as of 2025)

Executive Summary

CLOSING THE GAP: THE URGENCY OF DISABILITY INCLUSION

Despite progress, persons with disabilities continue to be left behind¹, facing systemic exclusion from services, opportunities and decision-making². Climate change, conflicts, and widening inequalities add urgency for transformative action³. The United Nations Global Disability Fund (GDF) positions disability inclusion at the centre of sustainable development, climate action and humanitarian response for systemic change.

As the sole UN global fund dedicated to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), our vision is a world where every person with disabilities enjoys full and equitable participation with their rights fulfilled. We catalyse system change to accelerate the realization of the CRPD and inclusive SDGs by uniting diverse stakeholders to drive transformative change.

OUR STRATEGIC EVOLUTION

GDF is raising its ambition through a bold 2030 strategy. Building on achievements and learning to date, GDF is moving from pilot interventions toward systemic transformation, expanding global reach and ensuring OPDs are at the forefront of change.

HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE – FOUR PATHWAYS

GDF advances systemic transformation through four interconnected pathways:

- **Practices:** Piloting, scaling and embedding inclusive solutions.
- **Partnerships:** Building co-leadership with OPDs across multi-stakeholder coalitions.
- **Policies & Financing:** Embedding inclusion in national systems, supported by innovative finance.
- **Knowledge:** Co-creating evidence and learning to shift understanding and inform scale.

OUR OPERATING MODEL

GDF's unique value lies in catalysing systemic change through six interconnected approaches: holistic & systemic; locally led & rights based; multi-stakeholder collaboration; innovation; knowledge & adaptive learning; and intersectionality.

Achieving systemic change happens through:

- Country Programmes aligned to national and sub-national priorities with three models of engagement:
 - Transformative Programmes for long-term systemic change.
 - Acceleration Programmes for scaling proven solutions.
 - Response & Entry Programmes for rapid action and innovation.
- The Inclusion Catalyst Hub – a global engine driving OPD leadership, innovation, financing and knowledge for disability inclusion.

FIGURE 1. What We Will Achieve - Five Strategic Goals



OUR PROMISE FOR 2030

We will operate in 100 countries, delivering 85 targeted programmes to reach 300 million persons with disabilities directly and 1 billion indirectly.

This transformation will only be achieved through strategic partnerships—bringing together OPDs, governments, the United Nations, civil society, the private sector and other key stakeholders—alongside the continued commitment of global donors. Together, we can ensure that by 2030 persons with disabilities are not left behind, but are at the forefront of building inclusive, resilient and equitable societies.

Our Vision and Mission

OUR VISION:

We work towards a world where every person with disabilities enjoys full and equitable participation in society with their rights promoted, protected and fulfilled.

OUR MISSION:

To catalyse systems change that accelerates the sustainable realisation of the CRPD and disability inclusive SDGs for all persons with disabilities.

GDF's strength lies in its collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach and convening power — a transformative force for change where no single actor could succeed alone. We leverage unparalleled expertise and perspectives to significantly amplify our collective impact, accelerating progress toward a more inclusive and equitable world.

FIGURE 2. Collaborative Network



We connect multi-stakeholders from development, climate and humanitarian sectors to achieve sustainable, systemic disability inclusion.

Established in 2012, GDF is the sole UN global multi-partner fund dedicated to accelerating national implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

By combining targeted funding with capacity building, technical assistance, evidence and learning, GDF plays a critical role in advancing the UN's disability agenda, enabling country-level joint programmes that support collective efforts on disability inclusion with increased participation from UN Country Teams (UNCTs).

FIGURE 2. Global Reach, Local Impact 2012-2024

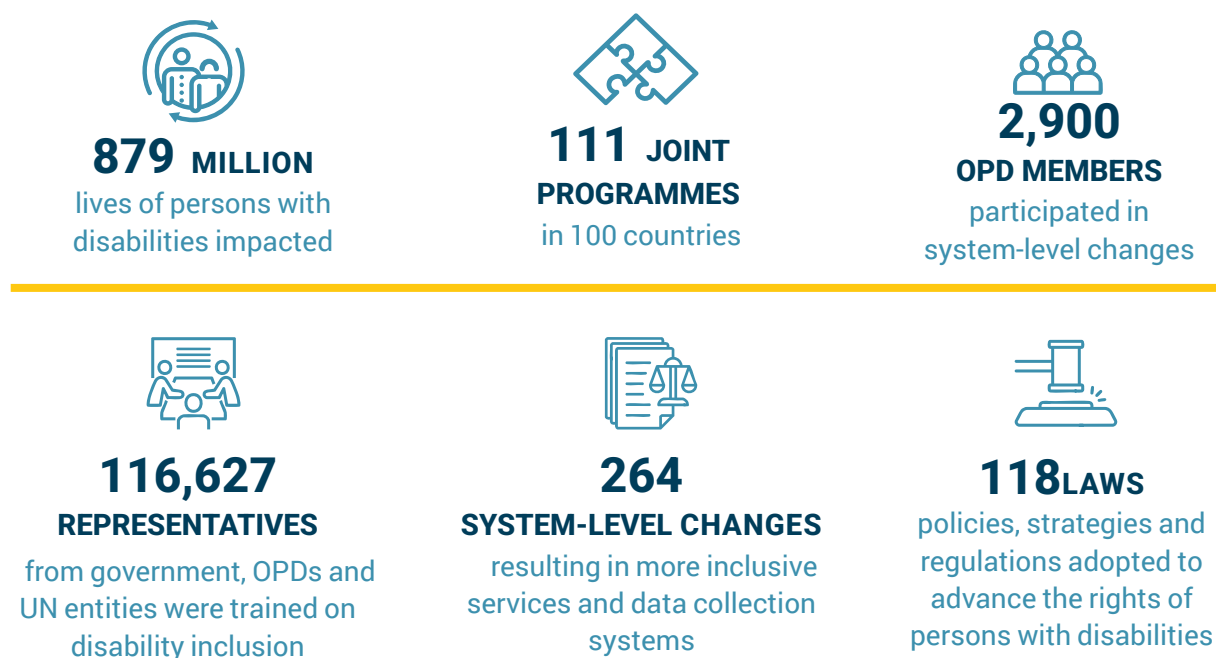


FIGURE 3. Our Donors and Partners

Donors



Civil Society



UN Entities



Challenge and Urgency

While significant progress has been made in recognising disability rights and promoting inclusion, many persons with disabilities still face substantial barriers. Our understanding of this complex global landscape – the progress and the persistent challenges – directly shapes our strategic approach.



SIGNS OF PROGRESS

Global frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement have embedded disability rights and commitments continue to grow.

Some highlights:

Global and National Commitments

- CRPD ratifications: **191 countries**.⁴
- Persons with disabilities' rights were embedded in the 2030 Agenda through the Sustainable Development Goals,⁵ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction⁶ and the Paris Agreement.⁷
- Global Disability Summits: Since 2018, held every three years to close the gap between two often disconnected areas: disability inclusion and development cooperation.⁸

Policy & Legislative Advancements

- Education: **87% of countries have laws protecting the right to education** for persons with disabilities.⁹
- Assistive Technology: **80% of countries have policies supporting access to assistive technology**.¹⁰



PERSISTENT CHALLENGES

Over 1 billion people, most in developing countries, continue to encounter significant barriers in everyday life and suffer stark consequences of inequities in our communities.¹¹

For example:

Health & Safety Risks

- Life expectancy: Up to **20 years shorter**.¹²
- Climate & humanitarian crises: **Four times more likely to die or be injured**.¹³
- Violence: **Four times more likely to face sexual assault**; children with intellectual disabilities are 4.6x at risk.¹⁴

Education & Economic Exclusion

- Education gap: Children with disabilities are **2.5x more likely to be out of school**.¹⁵
- Funding shortfall: **Only 0.2% of global aid targets disability inclusion**, despite 1 billion persons with disabilities in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).¹⁶

Slow SDG Progress

- Only **5% of SDG targets are on track** for persons with disabilities.¹⁷

WE NEED TO ACCELERATE EFFORTS

Despite progress, the rights of persons with disabilities in sustainable development, climate action and humanitarian response and recovery remain an urgent priority.

Our Strategic Evolution: Raising Our Ambition

Grounded in twelve years of experience and insights from over 100 countries, our new strategy builds on proven success and evolves to deepen and scale impact for persons with disabilities.

WHAT WILL CONTINUE

Scaling Inclusion Together

As the only UN inter-agency, multi-stakeholder funding mechanism dedicated to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities, we unite UN entities, governments, OPDs, civil society and national partners through joint programmes. This collaborative approach drives systemic change, reinforces a whole-of-UN strategy, advances UNDIS commitments and embeds disability inclusion across UN frameworks and humanitarian responses to maximize lasting impact.

WHAT WILL EVOLVE

1. From broad reach to profound impact

We learned that reach alone is insufficient to drive lasting impact. We are shifting from funding a wide range of activities to investing in fewer, deeper systemic interventions. This approach allows us to develop, prove and scale local and national models for disability inclusion, dismantling the systemic barriers that hinder full participation in society.¹⁸

3. From consultation to co-leadership

We learned that systemic change requires more than multi-stakeholder collaboration; it demands that persons with disabilities are equal partners in decision-making. We are shifting power toward representative organizations (OPDs) and building an ecosystem for collective action. This ensures that persons with disabilities are active agents of change in the systems that affect their lives.

2. From policy to practice

We learned that having policies is not enough; they must be enacted. Our focus is on implementation. We support governments, OPDs and communities to co-create and test context-specific solutions that generate real impact. This approach turns local innovation into evidence that can influence national policy and financing reforms, ensuring change is both relevant and scalable.¹⁹

4. From standardized models to flexible pathways

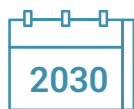
We learned that standardized approaches fall short in driving meaningful and lasting change.²⁰ Our strategy embraces flexible and context-specific engagement tailored to a country's readiness for system change and its own identified priorities. By combining local momentum with global knowledge and support, we help catalyze transformation from where countries are, unlocking scalable and inclusive systems that reflect real needs.²¹

Our Theory of Change



Holistic Impact

Persons with disabilities, in all their diversity, have increased autonomy to safely live and contribute to society in the way they choose



Target

By 2030, 300 million persons with disabilities will be directly and 1 billion indirectly impacted by the Global Disability Fund's work

Interconnected Goal Areas	1. OPDs Leading the change	2. Essential Services	3. Physical and Digital	4. Support and Protection	5. Resilience
Long Term Impact for persons with disabilities	Active agents of change of the systems that affect their lives	Improved health, education and skills development outcomes	Independence and autonomy in their physical and digital environment	Increased safety and independence in their daily life	Resilient to the impacts of climate change, conflicts and humanitarian crisis
Outcomes by 2030	Increased recognition as equal partners	Increased equitable access to relevant, quality, inclusive and accountable health & education services	Improved equitable access to physical and digital environment	Increased equitable access to quality, inclusive and accountable gender-based violence, protection, referral, care and support services	Increased inclusion in preparedness, response and early recovery
Systems Change Outputs	Practices: High-impact, evidence-based solutions from locally led innovations in priority areas are ready to scale. • Models and learning for holistic inclusion developed locally and nationally. • Scaling pathways identified and tested. • Evidence of readiness for replication in other contexts Partnerships: Inclusive, cross-sector collaborations for disability inclusion at all levels, co-led by OPDs and public authorities. • OPD and government co-leadership embedded in partner countries. • Partnerships expanded across sectors and levels. • Cross-sector coordination embedded at national and local levels				

Systems Change Outputs	Policies & Financing: • Disability inclusion integrated into mainstream, humanitarian, and climate policies, with sustainable financing mechanisms. • Proven solutions and learning inform policy and financing reforms. • Champions for disability inclusion actively engaged in shaping reforms Knowledge & Learning: • Understanding of sustainable, innovative, and scalable solutions for disability inclusion is transformed at all levels. • Global repository and helpdesk widely used as a resource for systems change. • Expanded evidence base co-created by national and local stakeholders.		
Thematic Priorities	<table> <tr> <td data-bbox="399 674 869 1198"> Essential services • Integrated early childhood health care & education services • Children and adolescents’ education and school-linked health services • Resilience and preparedness of health & education systems Climate and humanitarian crises • Crisis response • Inclusive preparedness and early recovery in interconnected crises </td><td data-bbox="871 674 1396 1198"> Urban development • Urban information, knowledge & communications ecosystems • Urban mobility and connectivity • Urban local essential services • Urban disaster risk management systems Women and girls’ health and protection • Sexual and reproductive health services • Response and protection from GBV • Maternal health services </td></tr> </table>	Essential services • Integrated early childhood health care & education services • Children and adolescents’ education and school-linked health services • Resilience and preparedness of health & education systems Climate and humanitarian crises • Crisis response • Inclusive preparedness and early recovery in interconnected crises	Urban development • Urban information, knowledge & communications ecosystems • Urban mobility and connectivity • Urban local essential services • Urban disaster risk management systems Women and girls’ health and protection • Sexual and reproductive health services • Response and protection from GBV • Maternal health services
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Driving Action	Three types of country programmes: 1. Transformative Programmes to identify systemic issues and develop scalable solutions 2. Acceleration Programmes to scale innovations forward from proof-of-concept on practices and financing solutions 3. Response & Entry Programmes for immediate humanitarian needs, short term policy reform and to incubate new solutions		
Agile Mechanisms to Enhance Effectiveness	Inclusion Catalyst Hub: A unified engine to maximize the value and impact of country programmes and global influencing. Three areas of focus: • OPD Leadership • Innovation, Knowledge & Learning • Policy & Financing Existing Secretariat functions: • Management: Strategy & Finance and Partnerships & Fundraising • Program Operations: Programme Management, MERL and Quality Assurance.		

What We Will Achieve: Five Strategic Goals

A holistic approach and lasting change for persons with disabilities

GDF adopts a holistic approach to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. It focuses on influencing interconnected systems at country level where the Fund can drive meaningful change. Our strategy is built around five strategic goal areas of impact: essential services; support and protection services; physical and digital accessibility; resilience to climate change and humanitarian crises; and the participation and leadership of persons with disabilities. The latter goal is at the centre of this change model, ensuring persons with disabilities are active drivers of change.



Our ultimate impact: Persons with disabilities, in all their diversity, have increased autonomy to safely live and contribute to society in the way they choose.

Our holistic approach delivers long-lasting change for persons with disabilities as a combined result of achievements across each goal area.

Table 1. Overview of long-term impacts and outcomes in each strategic interconnected goal area

Strategic Goal Area	Long term impacts for Persons with Disabilities (Beyond 2030)		Outcomes (by 2030)
1. OPDs leading the change	Persons with disabilities, in all their diversity, are active agents of change of the systems that affect their lives.		Increased recognition of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations as equal partners to co-lead systemic change for disability inclusion.
2. Essential services	Persons with disabilities have improved health, education and skills development outcomes.		Increased equitable access for persons with disabilities to relevant, quality, inclusive and accountable essential services.
3. Physical and digital accessibility	Persons with disabilities have independence and autonomy in their physical and digital environment.		Improved equitable access for persons with disabilities to their physical and digital environment.
4. Support and protection services	Persons with disabilities, especially women, girls, marginalized and underrepresented persons, experience increased safety and independence in their daily life.		Increased equitable access for persons with disabilities to quality, inclusive and accountable gender-based violence, protection, referral, care and support services.
5. Resilience	Persons with disabilities are resilient to the impacts of climate change, conflicts and humanitarian emergencies.		Increased inclusion of persons with disabilities in climate change, conflicts and other humanitarian emergency preparedness, response and early recovery actions.

Strategic Goal Area 1: OPDs Leading the Change

Long term impact: Persons with disabilities, in all their diversity, are active agents of change of the systems that affect their lives.

Persons with disabilities hold leadership and advisory roles in decision-making bodies at all levels. Their representative organizations have the power to influence strategies and development programmes, and their inputs shape more inclusive services, policies and budgets.

Outcome by 2030: Increased recognition of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations as equal partners to co-lead systemic change for disability inclusion.

- Stakeholders at all levels proactively seek out and value the contributions of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs).
- Engagement is equitable, shifting power and resources to OPDs so they can lead systemic change.
- Systems and processes are in place to enable OPDs' full and effective participation.

Why is this important?

CRPD Articles:
4.3 & 33.3;
SDG Target 16.7

Exclusion of persons with disabilities from decision-making results in policies and services that overlook lived realities, fail to uphold rights and exacerbate marginalization. Exclusion is even more pronounced for youth, women, persons with diverse disabilities and minority groups. Persons with disabilities face multiple, intersecting barriers, discrimination, limited access to knowledge and information, inaccessible participation mechanisms and inadequate funding of representative organizations.²² Inclusive leadership is essential to shape the systems meant to serve persons with disabilities, ensuring that change is transformative, rights based and long lasting.

BOX 1. OPD LEADERSHIP – 'NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US'

Persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are at the heart of our work. We challenge power dynamics to ensure OPDs are meaningfully engaged and resourced to advance disability rights and systemic reforms in line with the CRPD.

We commit to:

- **Funding & capacity** – Providing targeted resources and skills-building for OPDs, including marginalized groups, to lead policy reforms and service improvements.
- **Meaningful participation** – Ensuring OPDs are engaged at every stage of our programme cycle, from planning to evaluation, and in all development, climate and humanitarian actions.
- **Leadership & influence** – Partnering with OPDs as equal leaders at national, regional and global levels, including through collaboration with the International Disability Alliance (IDA) to connect local priorities with global decision-making.

Strategic Goal Area 2: Essential Services

Long term impact: Persons with disabilities have improved health, education and skills development outcomes.

Persons with disabilities are healthier because health systems respond to their needs. Children and adolescents with disabilities are enrolled and supported in inclusive education systems. Improved health and education outcomes enable participation in society and livelihood opportunities.

Outcome by 2030: Increased equitable access for persons with disabilities to relevant, quality, inclusive and accountable essential services.

- Health and education facilities are **accessible**; staff have the skills to deliver inclusive practices and learning materials are inclusive.
- Services are interconnected, with effective cross-referrals.
- Feedback from persons with disabilities is actively used to improve service quality.

Why is this important?

CRPD Articles:
24, 25, 26 & 27;
SDG Goal 3 and 4

Access to health and education remains a major challenge for children, youth, and adults with disabilities, who face inequities stemming from multiple and intersecting discriminatory barriers, which are more pronounced for women and girls with disabilities and marginalised groups. Without access to these services, other barriers become more severe and exclusion of persons with disabilities deepens.²³ Prioritising health equity and inclusive education is vital to uphold fundamental rights, unlock potential and enhance well-being, strengthening leadership, resilience, and inclusion.

Strategic Goal Area 3: Physical and Digital Accessibility

Long term impact: Persons with disabilities have independence and autonomy in their physical and digital environment.

Persons with disabilities can travel independently, access public facilities, use digital platforms and get the information they need. This autonomy allows them to access services, pursue employment and participate in the social and civic life of their communities on an equal basis with others.

Outcome by 2030: Improved equitable access for persons with disabilities to their physical and digital environment.

- Accessibility is a core standard for all infrastructure, transport, digital platforms and communication materials across all sectors.
- All infrastructure is designed to meet the diverse needs of persons with disabilities, from the outset.

Why is this important?

CRPD Articles:
9 & 21;

SDG Goal 9 and 11

Persons with disabilities face multiple physical and digital barriers accessing infrastructure, transport, information and knowledge. These discriminatory barriers reinforce inequity and exclusion from services and society. They reinforce dependence, and limit autonomy.²⁴ Women and girls, persons with diverse disabilities, marginalized and underrepresented groups experience these challenges most acutely, as they add to other societal barriers. Embedding physical and digital accessibility in every layer of society unlocks dignity, resilience and participation.

Strategic Goal Area 4: Support and Protection Services

Long term impact: Persons with disabilities, especially women, girls, marginalized and underrepresented persons, experience increased safety and independence in their daily lives.

Persons with disabilities live free from violence, abuse and neglect. They feel safe and respected in their homes and communities, knowing their rights will be upheld. They access the holistic care, support and referral services they need, which reduce barriers and increase independence and dignity.

Outcome by 2030: Increased equitable access for persons with disabilities to quality, inclusive and accountable gender-based violence prevention, protection, referral, care and support services.

- Protection, care and support services are accessible
- Staff are trained and have knowledge of inclusive practices.
- Cross-sectoral referral systems are effective and responsive to diverse needs.
- Feedback from persons with disabilities is used to hold services accountable and drive continuous improvement.

Why is this important?

CRPD Articles:
6 & 16 & 19;

SDG Goal 5, 10 & 16

Persons with disabilities often face multiple, intersectional discrimination that intensifies their exclusion and exposure to violence, abuse and neglect. Women and girls, marginalised and underrepresented groups and those with diverse and multiple disabilities are especially at risk.²⁵ Prevention, protection and response services seldom accommodate their needs. Inadequate social protection and support services, ineffective referral systems and limited awareness of rights all deepen service inequity. Inclusive support and protection are critical for safety and dignity, independent living, autonomy and participation in society.²⁶

BOX 2. WOMEN AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

Women and girls with disabilities face intersecting discrimination that heightens poverty, exclusion and rights violations. Our strategy advances disability-inclusive, gender-transformative outcomes to ensure they can exercise their rights, live free from violence and stigma and lead change.

We commit to:

- **Targeted interventions** – Expanding access to inclusive services, including sexual and reproductive health, maternal health and GBV prevention and protection.
- **Mainstreaming** – Embedding gender-transformative approaches across all programmes.
- **Leadership and voice** – Investing in women- and youth-led OPDs to strengthen advocacy and ensure their perspectives shape policy and reforms.

Strategic Goal Area 5: Resilience

Long term impact: Persons with disabilities are resilient to the impacts of climate change, conflict and humanitarian emergencies.

Persons with disabilities can withstand, adapt to and recover from the impacts of climate change, conflict and humanitarian emergencies. Their vulnerability to shocks are reduced, their emergency needs are met and they recover their health, income and social connections more quickly.

Outcome by 2030: Increased inclusion of persons with disabilities in climate change, conflict and other humanitarian emergency preparedness, response and early recovery actions.

- Disaster preparedness, response and recovery systems are inclusive and accessible.
- The leadership of persons with disabilities in co-designing systems is recognized and supported.
- All aspects of emergency management, from early warning to recovery, are tailored to meet diverse needs.

Why is this important?

CRPD Articles: 11;

SDG Goals:
9, 11 & 13

Persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by the impact of humanitarian and climate crises, which exacerbate existing inequalities. They face discriminatory barriers in accessing essential emergency services, such as food, water, shelter, health, and support and protection systems. Disaster risk reduction and preparedness infrastructure, warning systems and communication services are often not inclusive or accessible.²⁷ New barriers created during recovery further reinforce exclusion. Inclusive preparedness, response and recovery are crucial to protect the lives of persons with disabilities, safeguard their rights and build resilience.

Four Thematic Areas: Priorities for Countries

To achieve its holistic impact, GDF structures its work around four interconnected priority thematic areas, each encompassing a set of targeted focus areas.

This approach allows countries to select the priorities most relevant to their national context and needs. This adaptive, focused country-led model ensures a clear strategic focus while strengthening national ownership, and facilitating targeted technical support, capacity building and peer learning. By aligning global ambition with local priorities, we ensure resources are deployed strategically, maximizing impact across the strategic goal areas.

1. Essential services:

To enhance equitable access to quality, inclusive and integrated **health and education services** for children and adolescents with disabilities.

- **Integrated, inclusive and appropriate** early childhood health care and education services.
- Children and adolescents' inclusive education and school-linked health services.
- **Resilient, prepared and climate-proofed** inclusive health and education systems.

2. Climate and humanitarian crises:

To enhance the responsiveness of climate action and humanitarian systems to the diverse needs and rights of persons with disabilities during **preparedness, response** and early **recovery efforts**.

- Accessible and inclusive life-saving assistance, social protection and support services during crisis response.
- Inclusive climate and humanitarian preparedness and early recovery in multiple and interconnected crises.

3. Women and girls' health and protection:

To increase the equitable access and utilisation by women and girls with disabilities of **inclusive, safe and accountable** services related to gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health.

- Safe, inclusive and accessible **sexual and reproductive health services**.
- Safe, inclusive and accessible **social and support systems** for response and protection from gender-based violence.
- Safe, inclusive and accessible **maternal health services**.

4. Urban development:

To enhance the systemic integration of disability inclusion as a core principle and practice of resilient and inclusive urban territorial development from the outset.

- Accessible and inclusive urban **information**, knowledge and communication ecosystems.
- Accessible and inclusive urban **mobility** and **connectivity**.
- Integrated and inclusive urban **local essential services**.
- Inclusive urban climate and humanitarian **disaster risk management**.

How We Will Achieve Change: Advancing Systemic Transformation

HOW WE WILL ACHIEVE CHANGE

Achieving lasting, holistic change for persons with disabilities means tackling the systemic barriers that prevent inclusion and full participation. Building on 12 years of learning and applying system thinking and intersectionality, GDF has identified four interconnected pathways to drive transformation at local, national, regional and global levels.

Our global strategy offers a coherent vision and high-level global outputs that can be adapted to national contexts and priorities, ensuring coherence while enabling context-specific solutions. Achievements at country, regional and global levels collectively contribute to the global systemic change.

2030 VISION FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

By 2030, a movement for systemic change toward the holistic inclusion of persons with disabilities will be firmly rooted in countries and accelerating across sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

Stakeholders will have jointly developed, tested, and scaled a growing body of high-impact, evidence-based solutions for disability inclusion. Diverse and transformative multi-stakeholder partnerships – co-driven by OPDs and governments – will span from local communities to global platforms, engaging marginalized groups, mainstream actors and cross-sectoral collaborators.

Policy and financing reforms will embed disability inclusion in mainstream systems, supported by innovative and sustainable funding mechanisms at both national and international levels.

Iterative co-creation and exchange of knowledge will have transformed how disability inclusion is understood and practiced, inspiring other countries and actors to join and accelerate the movement.

OUR FOUR PATHWAYS TO SYSTEMIC CHANGE



ACROSS ALL PATHWAYS

Practice and policy change will reinforce one another, grounded in evidence, knowledge and continuous learning. Systemic change will be informed by evidence, knowledge and learning, enabling contextualization, adoption and adaptation of good practices. The insights and knowledge generated have shaped scaling strategies and the global knowledge base. This exchange of knowledge will transform disability inclusion understanding and practice, with strong accountability mechanisms, ensuring effective country-global feedback loops.



Pathway 1: Practices

Global output:

High-impact, evidence-based solutions from locally led innovations in priority areas are ready to scale in and outside pilot countries.

- Multi-stakeholder partnerships, with co-leadership of OPDs, identify and learn about priority challenges for disability inclusion.
- Innovative solutions are tested, supported by South-South partnerships with evidence-based models demonstrating what works at scale.
- Scaling journey progress for most promising innovation, with replication underway in other countries.

By 2030:

- Models and learning for holistic inclusion of persons with disabilities are developed at local and national levels.
- Scaling pathways are identified and tested.
- Evidence of readiness for replication in other contexts is established, and adopted or scaled by national partners.



Pathway 2: Partnerships

Global output:

Multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral collaborations for the inclusion of persons with disabilities at local, national and international levels are enhanced with increased contributions of OPDs, representing the diversity of Persons with Disabilities.

- Stakeholders, with national and local public authorities, co-create and test innovative solutions informed by lived experience.
- OPDs are positioned in formal leadership and decision-making roles, lead decision-making and advocacy for system change.
- More women, persons with diverse disabilities, and marginalized groups are actively engaged.

By 2030

- National and local governments, along with OPDs, are co-leading system change in various countries.
- Partnerships are expanded across sectors and actors at local, national and international levels.
- Cross-sectoral coordination is established at local and national levels.



Pathway 3: Policies & Financing

Global output:

The integration of disability inclusion in mainstream, humanitarian and climate policies and in sustainable financing mechanisms that leverage multi-stakeholder funding streams is enhanced at local, national and international levels.

- Governments, OPDs, and mainstream actors shape inclusive policies and financing reforms using evidence and learning and global policy tools and guidance notes.
- Inclusive financing models leveraging multi-stakeholder funding are developed and tested.
- Evidence from national-level reforms informs regional and global policy change.

By 2030

- Policy and financing reforms are informed by proven solutions and learning.
- Government disability inclusion champions and OPDs with other mainstream actors are actively engaged in shaping reforms, with increased financing mobilized and budget allocations tracked.



Pathway 4: Knowledge and Learning

Global output:

The understanding and knowledge about sustainable, innovative and scalable solutions for disability inclusion are transformed at local, national and international level.

- Stakeholders generate and apply evidence and learning in programming, policy, and practice, with co-production by OPDs and academic partners.
- OPDs and allies use learning to lead scaling and influence systems.
- Discourse on disability inclusion is transformed in mainstream and disability-specific spaces.

By 2030:

- A global repository and central helpdesk are increasingly used and valued as a resource for systems change, resulting in a measurable increase in uptake by diverse stakeholders.
- An expanded evidence base is co-created by national and local stakeholders.
- global thought-leadership platforms established to convene stakeholders, showcase evidence, and drive systemic change for disability inclusion.

How We Will Drive Change: GDF's Value Add

GDF takes a systemic approach to disability inclusion, tackling complex challenges at scale across diverse contexts.

Uniquely located in the UN system, GDF mobilizes and leverages networks to drive lasting change at scale toward full and equitable participation of persons with disabilities in development and humanitarian contexts.

1. Convening power as the sole UN fund for disability rights.

GDF is the only UN multi-partner fund dedicated to accelerating the implementation of the CRPD. This unique position gives us unparalleled power to convene governments, UN agencies, OPDs and civil society, driving transformative change that no single actor could achieve alone.

2. A unified UN approach.

We reinforce a coherent UN approach to disability inclusion. We advance effectiveness and impact by integrating disability rights into UN-government frameworks, supporting joint UN Country Team activities, and aligning with the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS).

3. An efficient pooled funding mechanism.

As a pooled fund, we offer donors an effective and efficient way to invest in disability inclusion. We mobilize and leverage diverse funding streams to maximize the impact of every dollar and ensure the strategic use of financial resources.

4. Bridging development, climate and humanitarian action.

We work across the nexus of development, climate and humanitarian contexts. We accelerate inclusive development, build resilience to climate change and crises, and ensure disability inclusion is central to emergency response and recovery.

5. Investing in what works.

We connect local action to national and global influence. Our flexible, evidence-based approach allows us to identify, test and scale proven solutions, moving local innovation to national policy and creating lasting systemic change.

BOX 3. OUR ROLE IN ADVANCING THE UN'S DISABILITY AGENDA

“The United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities [GDF] remains the primary vehicle for implementing disability-specific joint projects.”

UN Secretary-General Report to UNGA, Disability inclusion in the UN system, 2022

Unique Funding Mechanism:

The GDF is the only UN funding body dedicated to supporting countries in implementing the CRPD, playing a critical role in advancing the UN's disability agenda.

Driving the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS):

Instrumental in the 2019 launch of UNDIS, GDF reports annually on its contributions, demonstrating impact across the UN system.

Mainstreaming Disability Inclusion:

Supports UN Country Teams to integrate disability inclusion into UN development and humanitarian activities, a core workstream of UNDIS.

Engaging OPDs & Partners:

Ensures meaningful participation of OPDs—including women, girls and underrepresented groups—while fostering broader multi-stakeholder engagement.

Funding Joint Programmes:

Provides critical financing for UN joint programmes that strengthen disability inclusion at the country level.

Strengthening Data:

Improves data on persons with disabilities by enabling UNCTs and national stakeholders to conduct situational analyses based on stronger evidence.

Capacity Development:

Builds UN staff capacity through training, technical assistance and resources to advance disability inclusion.

Six Interconnected Approaches

GDF will employ six interconnected strategic approaches to catalyse sustainable, rights-based, systemic disability inclusion across the world.

A HOLISTIC AND SYSTEMIC APPROACH TO DISABILITY INCLUSION

Our strategy takes a holistic view, considering the person as a whole and addressing the interconnected areas that shape their lives. Our work targets four interlinked areas: essential services; support and protection; accessibility; and resilience. Our approach is grounded in systems thinking; we work with all actors—from local service providers to national ministries—to build integrated service models and shape enabling policies. By applying a ‘twin-track’ approach, we ensure persons with disabilities are included in mainstream programmes while also supporting targeted, specific services. This holistic systemic view is key to achieving lasting and scalable impact.

LOCALLY-LED, USER CENTERED AND RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES

We place persons with disabilities and country co-leadership at the centre of change. We ring-fence dedicated programme resources for OPDs. These strategic investments strengthen OPDs as equal partners and enables them to lead solutions from design to scale. We support alliances of diverse local actors to co-create innovations, develop scalable models and influence policy and financing reforms. User-centred design, OPD-led monitoring and inclusive knowledge generation anchor this approach. Partnerships with networks like the International Disability Alliance amplify OPDs influence. Local leadership shapes global reforms, which in turn strengthen local change. By linking local, national, regional and global systems, we ensure impact, collective ownership and sustainable transformation driven by those most affected.

DIVERSE AND TRANSFORMATIVE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATIONS

We build transformative partnerships to co-create scalable solutions and drive systemic reforms. This includes whole-of-UN and whole-of-government approaches, as well as engagement beyond the disability sector—including civil society, development banks, private sector, academia, women’s rights organisations and other country partners. Our role is to model equitable partnerships, support collective ownership and to embed disability inclusion in mainstream agendas. By leveraging the power, resources and reach of diverse actors, we enable local innovations to scale into broader systems. These collaborations create shared responsibility for embedding disability inclusion in policies, programmes and financing, accelerating change at scale.

INNOVATION

Systemic change requires diverse, context-specific innovations in practice, partnerships, policies and financing models. We invest in locally led innovations, from reaching the most marginalized and under-represented persons with disabilities to developing inclusive financing mechanisms. We scale proven solutions through policy reform, contribution to large-scale investments and adaptive adoption in new contexts. Our ‘funnel’ model supports idea generation, testing and scaling while embracing flexibility, calculated risk-taking and learning from early-stage failures. By embedding innovation in an iterative, participatory process, we generate adaptive responses to complex challenges and ensure solutions remain relevant and impactful over time. End users are at the centre of the innovation process, with iterative, participatory approaches that engage multiple stakeholders across the system. We generate

actionable learning and catalyse transformative change, recognizing that disability inclusion demands dynamic, multi-dimensional solutions.

KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING

Knowledge is both a catalyst for and an outcome of systemic change. We prioritise evidence-based, user-centred learning within and across countries, ensuring that insights are co-created by diverse stakeholders and remain relevant and actionable. This includes capacity development, reflective practice, rapid learning cycles, communities of practice and participatory research. We measure impact at both individual and system levels, using evidence to inform innovation and guide scaling. Our approach moves beyond top-down capacity building toward continuous, knowledge-driven learning that supports adaptive management. Through the Inclusion Catalyst Hub and strategic partnerships, we document good practices, address emerging questions and strengthen the leadership of persons with disabilities. Working in alliance with others, these leaders use learning to influence policies, strategies, and resource allocation at every level.

INTERSECTIONALITY

We address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including additional barriers faced by women and girls with disabilities and marginalized and underrepresented groups. We support representative CSOs and grassroots networks to lead change. Our ‘twin-track’ approach combines targeted support with mainstream integration, ensuring solutions are responsive to the unique challenges faced by under-represented communities. Intersectionality is embedded in all goal areas and approaches—shaping who we work with, how we work and what we prioritise. Solutions designed for those most excluded benefit wider populations, ensuring no one is left behind and systemic change is both inclusive and sustainable.

Our Programme Offer: Three Models of Country Engagement

COUNTRY AND LOCAL PROGRAMMES

Country and local programmes are the primary vehicles for putting the GDF strategy into practice at national and sub-national levels. Through targeted investments, GDF supports country-led efforts to address systemic challenges across its priority areas:

- **Essential services**
- **Climate and humanitarian action**
- **Women and girls’ health and protection**
- **Urban development**

A one-size-fits-all model is not sufficient. Each country context requires a tailored, flexible approach that responds to unique needs, opportunities and readiness for systemic change. GDF applies a multi-dimensional understanding of country dynamics to ensure its work is both strategic and adaptive, while remaining aligned with its **Theory of Change** and overall strategic goals.

THE THREE MODELS OF ENGAGEMENT

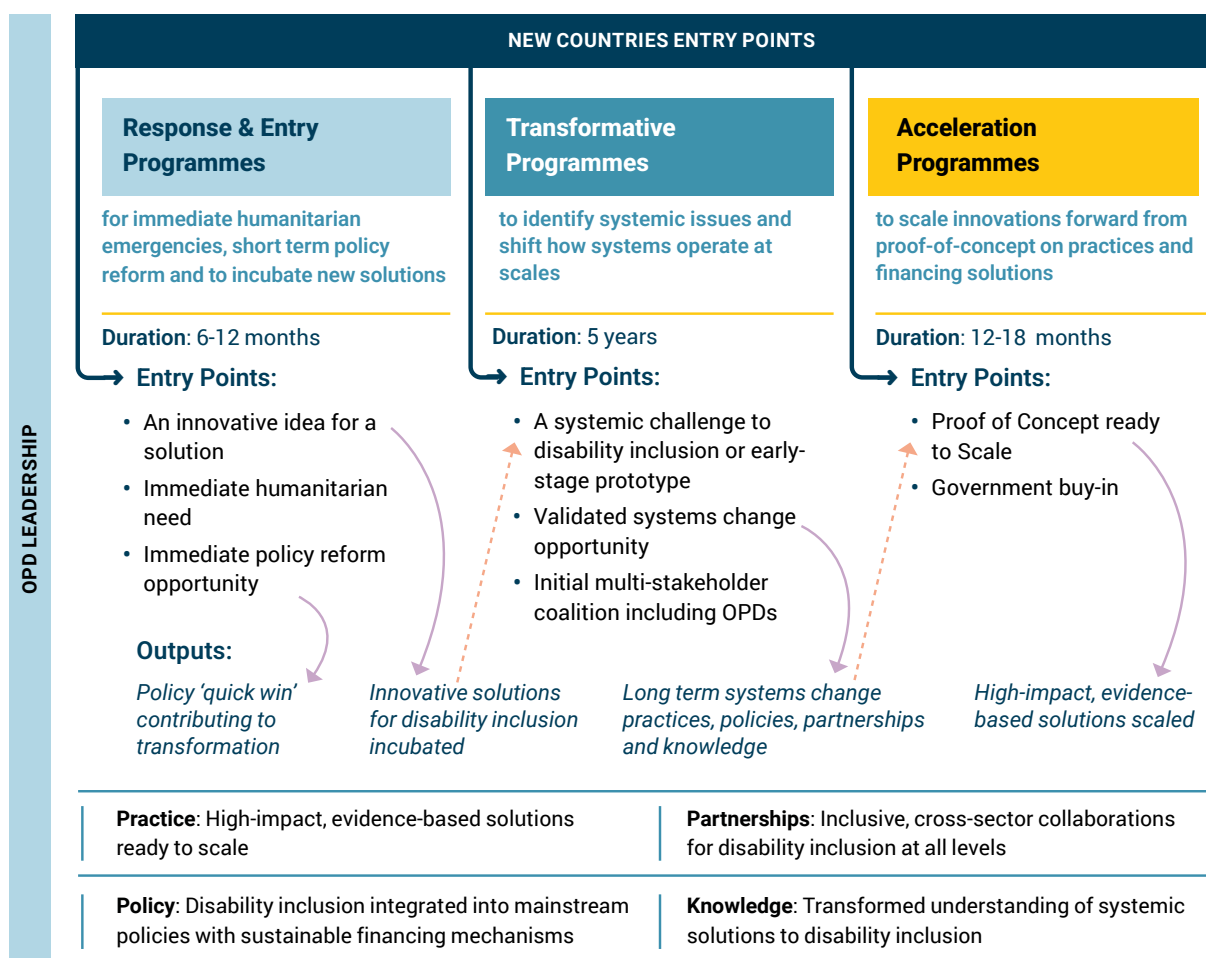
To operationalise this strategy, GDF applies **three engagement models – Transformative, Acceleration and Response & Entry**. These models provide context-appropriate pathways that contribute to our overarching goal of OPD-led systemic change, ensuring that investments are relevant, effective and scalable.

All three models:

- Prioritize meaningful **OPD engagement**.
- Align with GDF's **thematic priorities** (essential services, climate and humanitarian crises, women and girls' health and protection, urban development) and the **four pathways for systemic change** (Practices, Partnerships, Policy & Financing, Knowledge).
- Apply **guiding frameworks** that adapt to emerging insights and shifting contexts.

This approach ensures that:

- Countries can engage at the level of readiness that fits their context – whether **early entry, responding to immediate needs, scaling proven models** or **deep systemic transformation**.
- Progression across tiers is possible over time, supporting both **reach** and **depth** of change.
- Investments create a balance between **immediate impact** and **long-term systemic transformation**.
- GDF can pilot **new partnerships** and **innovative financing approaches** to strengthen sustainability and scale.



Response & Entry Programmes

Response & entry programmes are designed for timely opportunities—whether to respond to humanitarian needs, secure policy breakthroughs, or incubate early-stage innovations. They represent short-term, flexible investments that allow GDF to respond quickly and strategically.

The specific focus across the four pathways for systemic change:

- **Practices:** piloting innovative or emergency-response solutions.
- **Partnerships:** building rapid coalitions with OPDs, UN, governments and civil society.
- **Policy & Financing:** leveraging immediate windows of opportunity for policy or financing reform.
- **Knowledge:** capturing lessons from early action to inform systemic approaches.

These programmes are best suited for contexts with urgent needs, or clear policy windows, or promising early-stage innovations. They function as learning laboratories, open to new country partnerships, and can identify potential candidates for future transformative or acceleration investments.

Transformative Programmes

Transformative programmes are designed to drive sustainable, disability-inclusive systemic change by shifting how systems operate and enabling scale over time. They represent long-term, deep investments in one of GDF's thematic priorities, fully tailored to national and local priorities.

The specific focus across the four pathways for systemic change:

1. **Practices:** developing scalable evidence-based, high-impact innovations.
2. **Partnerships:** embedding OPD co-leadership in multi-stakeholders and sectoral collaborations.
3. **Policy & Financing:** integrating disability inclusion into national standards, frameworks and financing systems, including innovative mechanisms.
4. **Knowledge:** co-creating rigorous evidence and learning to transform understanding and sustain systemic transformation.

These programmes are implemented through country-led consortia with strong OPDs leadership, using a phased investment funnel. They are best suited to contexts with high readiness for catalytic OPD-led systemic change, with potential for large-scale, lasting transformation.

Acceleration Programmes

Acceleration Programmes are designed to achieve sustainable reach at scale by replicating and adapting proven innovative solutions. They represent mid-term investments focused on contextualizing and expanding evidence-based practice models nationally or across regions, underpinned by innovative financing modalities.

The specific focus across the four pathways for systemic change:

- **Practices:** replicating and contextualising proven, evidence-based solutions.
- **Partnerships:** strengthening coalitions that ensure government ownership and OPDs participation.
- **Policy & Financing:** enacting reforms that create enabling environments, backed by blended and pooled finance, with government, development banks and private sector actors as key partners.
- **Knowledge:** generating and applying learning to refine scaling strategies.

These programmes prioritize initiatives that address complex disability inclusion challenges, demonstrate strong evidence-based models, secure government buy-in and present robust scaling strategies with business and financing plans that GDF can contribute to.

Our Global Engine: The GDF Inclusion Catalyst Hub

The GDF Inclusion Catalyst Hub is a strategic partnership platform for global impact—serving as a unified engine to maximize the value of country programmes and accelerate progress at regional and global levels.

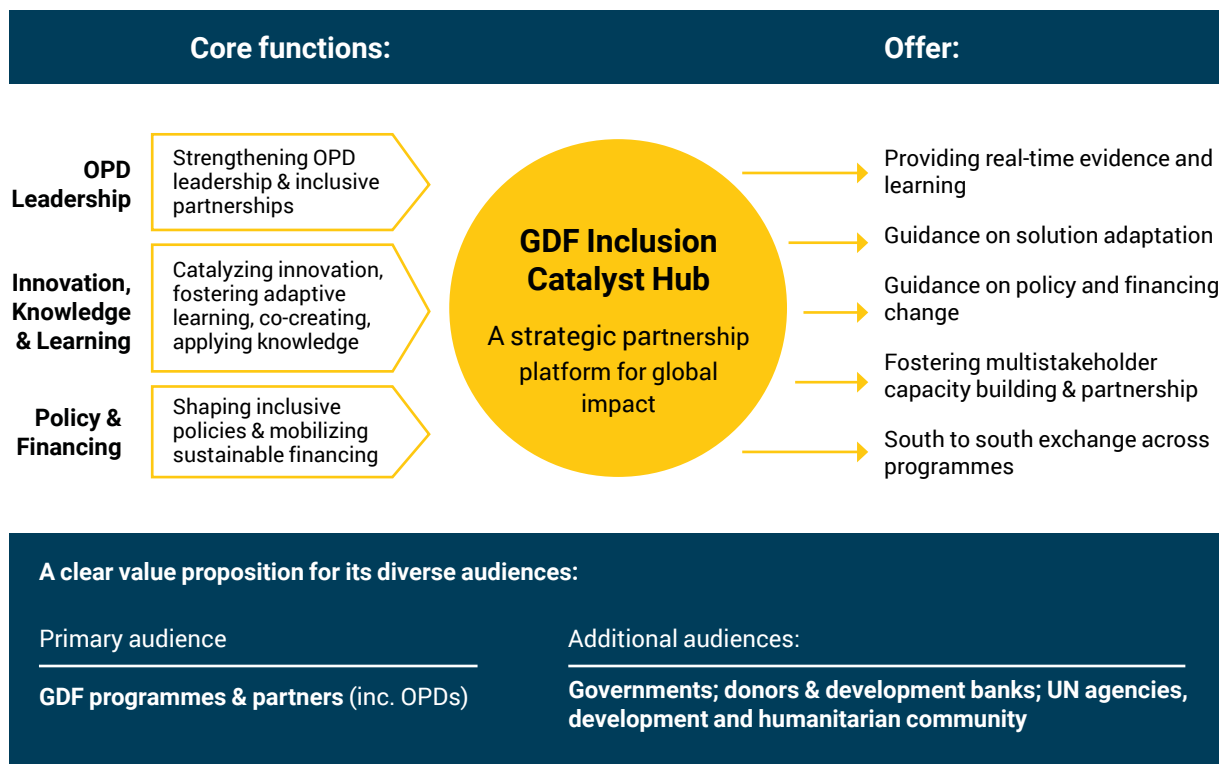
The Hub provides strategic direction, programmatic support and mobilizes technical expertise and knowledge across innovation, partnerships, policy, financing and learning. It fosters a shared understanding of effective strategies among country programmes, direct partners, OPDs and key external stakeholders, including governments, donors, development banks, UN agencies and the wider development and humanitarian community.

Championing evidence-based action, the Hub translates learning into strategic insights and catalyzes transformation in policies, practices, and financing for disability inclusion. It unites partners' global expertise and catalytic actions through three interconnected core functions:

1. Strengthening OPD leadership and inclusive partnerships – Ensuring persons with disabilities, in all their diversity, and their representative organizations are central to leading and shaping change.
2. Catalyzing innovation, fostering adaptive learning, and co-creating knowledge – Generating and applying innovative solutions and practical learning for systemic impact.
3. Shaping inclusive policies and mobilizing sustainable financing – Influencing policy frameworks and resource flows at local, national, regional and global levels to be equitable and disability-inclusive.

Core Function 1: OPD Leadership

A supportive mechanism to enhance the effectiveness of GDF programmes and global disability inclusion efforts. The resource rich 'global service centre' will result in more coherent and agile operations.



OBJECTIVE

To foster an environment where disability movements at local, national, regional and global levels can lead, partner effectively and influence systemic change for disability inclusion.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- **Tailored engagement approaches** – Develop and apply context-specific strategies to engage diverse disability movements, informed by their status, capacities and priorities.
- **Strengthen equitable partnerships** – Enhance the capacity of mainstream actors, including the UN, to work in genuine, equitable partnership with OPDs.
- **Leverage evidence for OPDs leadership** – Promote the use of consolidated learning and evidence on effective approaches to strengthen OPD leadership and meaningful participation, including capacity to influence policy and systemic reforms.

Core Function 2: Innovation, Knowledge and Learning

OBJECTIVE

To accelerate the co-creation and use of scalable, innovative solutions, actionable knowledge and adaptive learning—driven by OPDs and mainstream stakeholders at all levels —advancing systemic change for disability inclusion.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- **Strengthen capacity for innovation** – Equip OPDs and mainstream partners to jointly design, test, and scale evidence-based innovative solutions, supported by an inclusive global innovation ecosystem and South-South innovation partnerships.
- **Expand access to actionable knowledge** – Strengthen generation and use of evidence and learning to promote systemic change through an inclusive collaborative knowledge ecosystem. This includes co-producing research with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and academic partners, and enhancing the global repository and helpdesk.
- **Foster a culture of transformative learning** – Embed continuous improvement and adaptive management across the GDF ecosystem through inclusive and reflective learning practices.
- **Position GDF as a thought leader** – Enhance the visibility and influence of GDF and its partners in shaping global agendas for disability inclusion.

Core Function 3: Inclusive Policy and Financing

OBJECTIVE

To Catalyse systemic change in how disability inclusion is prioritized, funded, and implemented across local, national, regional, and global policy and financing systems—spanning development, humanitarian and climate sectors.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- **Strengthen evidence and accountability** – Build robust evidence bases and accountability mechanisms at all levels to track and improve financing for disability inclusion.
- **Enhance capacity of policy and finance actors** – Equip donors, international financial institutions and governments to embed disability inclusion into policies, standards, budgets and resource allocation processes, supported by global policy tools and guidance notes.
- **Increase political will and commitment** – Mobilize and sustain the engagement of key policy and financial actors to drive systemic reforms in disability-inclusive policy and financing.
- **Advance OPDs leadership for advocacy and influence** – Strengthen OPDs' ability to lead thematic advocacy on policy and financing, form coalitions and engage with wider social movements.
- **Boost domestic resource mobilization** – Promote the generation and effective use of domestic resources to support inclusive and sustainable financing for disability inclusion.

Our Promise for 2030: Measuring and Learning from What Matters

OVERARCHING 2030 TARGETS

- Operate in 100 countries, delivering 85 programmes (25 transformative, 50 accelerations, 10 response & entry).
- Reach 300 million persons with disabilities directly, including 195 million women & girls, and impact 1 billion people indirectly.

GOAL-SPECIFIC 2030 TARGETS

Reach 300 million persons with disabilities directly, including 195 million women & girls, and impact 1 billion people indirectly.				
1. OPDs Leading the Change	2. Essential Services	3. Physical & Digital Accessibility	4. Support & Protection Services	5. Resilience
Engage 200 OPDs representing diverse constituencies, are effectively influencing national policy-making and service delivery systems.	Ensure 300 million persons with disabilities have access to essential services.	Enable 150 million persons with disabilities have improved mobility and independence	Support 195 million women, girls and marginalized persons have access to inclusive care and protection services.	Strengthen 50 million persons with disabilities are resilient against climate and humanitarian crises.
Operate in 100 countries, delivering 85 programmes (25 transformative, 50 accelerations, 10 response & entry).				

OUR APPROACH TO MEASUREMENT AND LEARNING

GDF's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) system is designed to **track and understand systemic change** across local, national, regional and global levels. It recognizes that change in complex systems is non-linear, interconnected and influenced by multiple actors. To capture this, GDF uses **two complementary frameworks**:

- **Measurement Framework** – Determines whether change is happening by tracking its scale, depth, quality, and results. It uses both quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure shifts in policies, financing flows, institutional practices, service delivery and power dynamics.
- **Learning Framework** – Explores why and how change happens (or fails to happen). It provides space for reflection, critical analysis and sense-making, drawing lessons to inform strategy adaptation, scale successful approaches and address challenges.

OUR APPROACH IS GUIDED BY CORE PRINCIPLES:

- **Holistic systems perspective** – Recognizing that elements of change are interconnected and mutually reinforcing.
- **Adaptive practice** – Treating measurement as an evolving process that responds to new learning and context changes.
- **Empowerment and participation** – Ensuring OPDs and local change agents are active leaders in defining success, generating insights and using evidence for decision-making.
- **Country-led, globally coherent** – Allowing for local adaptation while ensuring consolidation and alignment with global frameworks such as the CRPD and SDGs.
- **Contribution over attribution** – Recognizing that systemic change is collective; GDF's role is to demonstrate credible influence without overstating sole responsibility.
- **Mixed methods and diverse evidence** – Combining quantitative and qualitative data from multiple sources to capture a complete picture of progress and challenges.

SIX FEATURES OF THE GDF RESULTS FRAMEWORK

1. **Systems-focused & contribution-oriented** – Measures deep structural change, addressing root causes of exclusion and acknowledging the role of multiple actors.
2. **Partner-led & empowering** – Co-create with OPDs and partners to ensure local relevance, ownership and use of MEL outputs for advocacy and programme improvement.
3. **Learning-oriented & adaptive** – Uses feedback loops, rapid learning cycles and ongoing reflection to refine strategies in real time.
4. **Multi-level & globally aligned** – Links grassroots change to national reform and global policy, ensuring coherence across all levels.
5. **Equity-focused** – Priorities reaching the most marginalized groups within the disability community and addressing intersectional barriers.
6. **Sustainability & capacity development** – Assesses whether changes endure, building the capacity of partners, systems and governance structures to sustain progress.

UNIFIED REPORTING AND TWO-PILLAR CONTRIBUTION

Our unified MEL framework aggregates achievements from:

- **Country Programmes** – Deliver local and national change, often focused on practice innovations, while partnering with the Inclusion Catalyst Hub to influence broader systems.
- **Inclusion Catalyst Hub** – Supports countries with technical assistance, drives global advocacy, and works across four pathways for change: OPD leadership, inclusive policy and financing, global knowledge management and innovation.

This dual approach ensures **a full line of sight** from specific outputs to broader systems change and long-term impact. We distinguish between:

- **Short-term changes** – e.g., access to a new service.
- **Long-term changes** – e.g., that service model embedded into national policy and scaled.

Endnotes

1. United Nations Deputy Secretary-General announced that nearly all the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators for persons with disabilities are off track. Statement at the 18th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP18). United Nations Headquarters, New York. [Global action needed as progress stalls on disability-inclusive development goals | UN News](#)
2. United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2024). Disability and Development Report 2024: Accelerating the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals by, for and with persons with disabilities (Annex & Notes). New York, NY: United Nations. <https://social.desa.un.org/>
3. See Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2020, April-22). Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change (Report No. A/HRC/44/30). United Nations. <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/44/30> and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. (2023). 2023 global survey report on persons with disabilities and disasters. Geneva: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. <https://www.undrr.org/media/90432/download>
4. OHCHR (2024) [Ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. A Toolkit](#)
5. United Nations (2015) [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
6. UNDRR (2015) [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)
7. UNFCCC (2015) [The Paris Agreement](#)
8. [Global Disability Summit](#) (2025)
9. UN DESA [Disability and Development Report](#) (2024)
10. United Nations (2024) [Disability and Development Report](#)
11. World Health Organization. (2022). *Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities*. Geneva: WHO.
12. WHO [Disability – Key facts](#)
13. Harvard University [Center for the Environment](#)
14. USA Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, Table 1, <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd0919st.pdf> & WHO <http://www.who.int/disabilities/violence/en/>
15. Global Partnership for Education (2024) [How to Finance Disability Inclusion in Education to Transform Systems and Leave No One Behind](#)
16. USD 3.8 trillion total development aid reported between 2018-22 by the OECD [Data Explorer](#) (2024)
17. United Nations (2024) [Disability and Development Report](#)
18. See UN DESA. (2018, 2023). *Flagship Report on Disability and Development*. The report stresses that piecemeal or one-off projects are inadequate. They argue for systemic, cross-sectoral reforms aligned with the CRPD and Agenda 2030 to dismantle entrenched barriers and create sustainable inclusion. See also WHO Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with

Disabilities (2022). This report highlights that interventions must move beyond reach and service coverage to transform underlying systems (health financing, governance, accountability). See also: International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) – Bridging the Gap II Lessons Learned (2021) and International Disability Alliance (IDA) reports on OPD leadership (2020–2024). Stress that donor funding spread thin across many activities dilutes impact. Instead, coherent systemic investments in OPD leadership, CRPD-aligned reforms, and institutional mechanisms yield durable change.

19. See OECD. (2023). *Development Co-operation Report 2023: Debating the aid system*. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and United Nations Development Programme. (2011). *Scaling up local innovations for transformational change*. UNDP.

20. Learning from UN Global Disability Fund monitoring and evaluation and highlighted in Global Disability Fund 2024 Annual report: [Annual Report 2024 - Global Disability Fund](#). See also: UNDP Human Development Report series which repeatedly stresses that national context, governance structures, and readiness determine how systemic transformation can be catalyzed. See also: World Bank – Adaptive Social Protection Framework (2020). Highlights tailoring reforms to country readiness and embedding global knowledge into context-responsive national systems.

21. This is reinforced by CRPD Article 32 (*International Cooperation*) which underscores the importance of global cooperation complementing and supporting national efforts with countries tailoring reforms to local priorities.

22. See, for example:

- International Disability Alliance. (2022). *IDA global survey on participation of organisations of persons with disabilities in development policies and programmes* [PDF]. International Disability Alliance. https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/ida_global_survey_2022_final.pdf
- UN Global Disability Fund. (2024). <https://globaldisabilityfund.org/document> Guidance note on effective and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities through their representative organizations in UNPRPD joint programming. UNGDF.
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- United Nations. (2017, July 14). *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities: Sexual and reproductive health and rights of girls and young women with disabilities* (A/72/133). <https://undocs.org/A/72/133>.

23. See: Frontiers in Public Health. (2025, February 9). *Health inequities among persons with disabilities: a global scoping review*. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 13. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2025.1538519>; World Health Organization. (2022). *Global report on health equity for persons with disabilities*. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/9789240063600>; on health disparities faced by women and girls with disabilities see also: Inclusive Futures. (2023, September). *Be inclusive: Including women and girls with disabilities in development and humanitarian projects – Learning report*. Inclusive Futures.

24. General Comment No. 2 (2014) on Accessibility makes clear that accessibility is a precondition for persons with disabilities to live independently, participate fully, and enjoy all rights. It also explicitly identifies digital, informational, and communication barriers as discriminatory. General Comment No. 5 (2017) on Living Independently and Being Included in the Community underlines that inaccessible services, information and communication, transportation and housing foster dependency and exclusion.

25. World Health Organization & UN Women. (2024, March 27). *Measuring violence against women with disability: Data availability, methodological issues and recommendations for good practice* [Policy brief]. WHO. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240089563>; UNICEF, UN Women, WHO, ILO, FAO, UNDP, UNFPA, & UNPRPD. (2023, May).

Working together to ensure the rights of girls with disabilities to live free from violence [Inter-agency statement]. UNICEF. <https://www.unicef.org>; Catalina Devandas, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, General Assembly Seventy-second session, July 14, 2017, A/72/133: <https://undocs.org/A/72/133>

26. Ortoleva, S., & Lewis, H. (2012). *Forgotten sisters: A report on violence against women and girls with disabilities*. Violence Against Women with Disabilities Working Group; Inclusion International, [Learning Brief on Gender Based Violence for Girls with intellectual disabilities](#), 2024; see also: Catalina Devandas, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, General Assembly Seventy-second session, July 14, 2017, A/72/133: <https://undocs.org/A/72/133>

27. UNDRR (2015) [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#); see also: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2020, April 22). *Analytical study on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change* (A/HRC/44/30). OHCHR. <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/30>



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