



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Disability data for development

**Strengthening disability-inclusive development
through better data**

Mika Kontiainen, Director, Disability Section



Overview of presentation

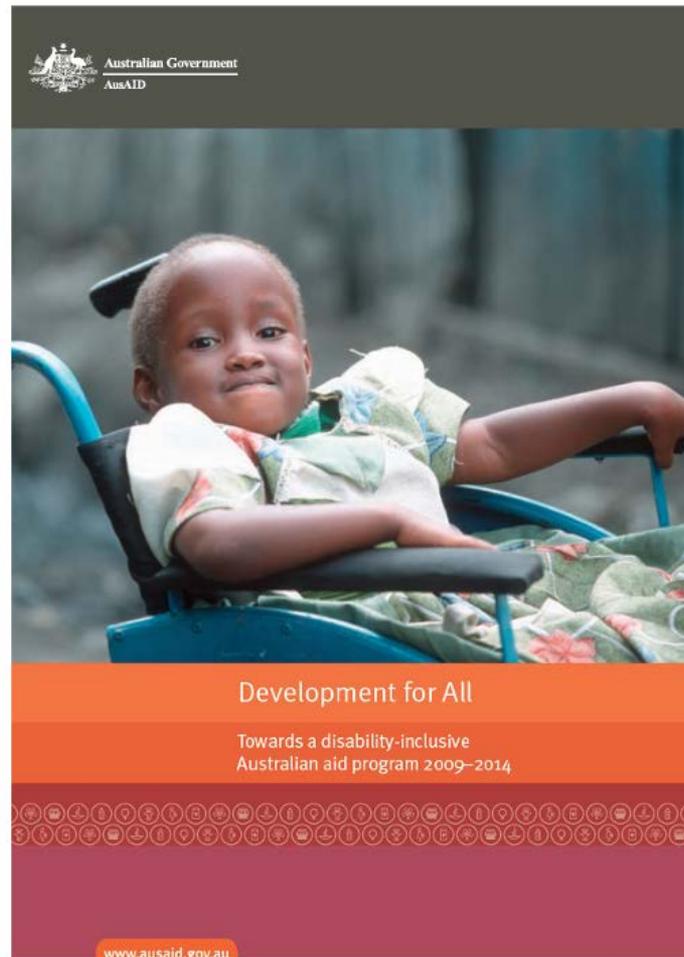
Policy context for disability-inclusive development in Australia

Outline of Australia's strategy

- Objectives
- Approach
- Principles – Strengthening disability data and evidence
 - DFAT's partnership with the Washington Group
 - DFAT's partnership with UNICEF on child functioning
 - DFAT's partnership with UN Statistical Division
 - Strengthening disability data in the Pacific
- Australia Bureau of Statistics - Supplementary Disability Survey
 - Producing a WG disability prevalence rate in Australia

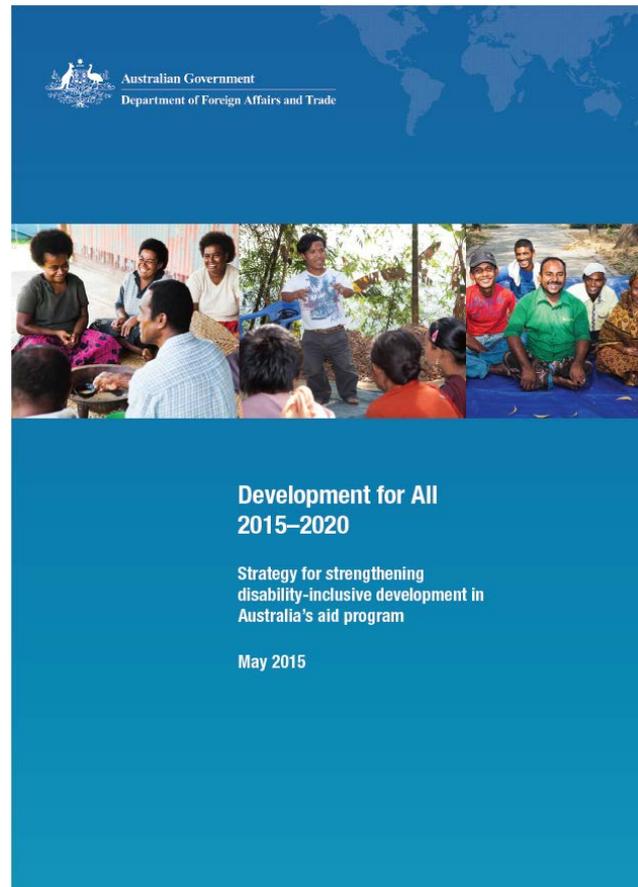


Development for All: Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program 2009-2014





Development for All 2015-2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program





Australia's commitment to disability-inclusive development

“Australia’s aid program aims to promote prosperity, reduce poverty and enhance stability through a joint focus on private sector development and human development in our region.

But we can’t achieve this if those most at risk can’t participate in, or access the benefits of, our programs.

Through the combined strength of our diplomatic advocacy and our aid investments, the Australian Government will continue to support the full participation of people with disabilities in community and economic life...(to) ensure that we leave no-one behind”.

Hon Julie Bishop,
Launch of the *Development for All:2015-2020*
strategy

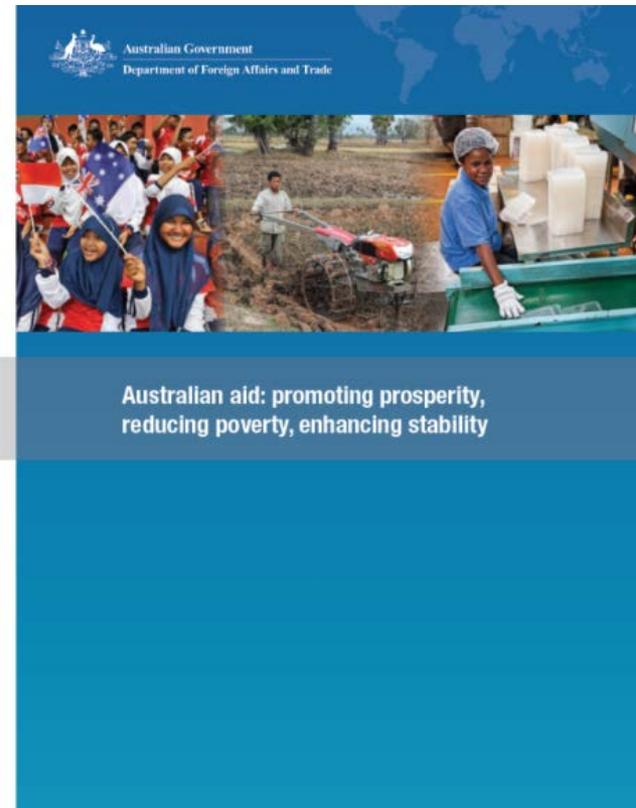




Aligning with Australia's development policy

Australian aid: promoting prosperity, reducing poverty, enhancing stability

- Purpose of the aid program is to promote Australia's national interests by contributing to sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction
- Affirms commitment to assisting people with disability find pathways out of poverty
- Performance framework requires country and regional programs to identify ways to include people with disability



Strategic Framework

Objective:

Improve the quality of life of people with disabilities in developing countries through:

- enhancing their participation and empowerment as contributors, leaders and decision makers
- reducing poverty among people with disabilities
- improving equality for people with disabilities in all areas of public life, including service provision, education and employment.

Guiding principles:

In order to:

Supporting an active and central role for people with disabilities: 'Nothing about us without us'

Developing policies and programs based on evidence

Taking into account the interaction between gender and disability

Improving inclusion of a diverse range of people with disabilities

Opportunities:

We maximise effectiveness through:

Supporting governance for equality through the implementation of the CRPD

Enabling infrastructure and accessible water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Ensuring inclusive education and skills

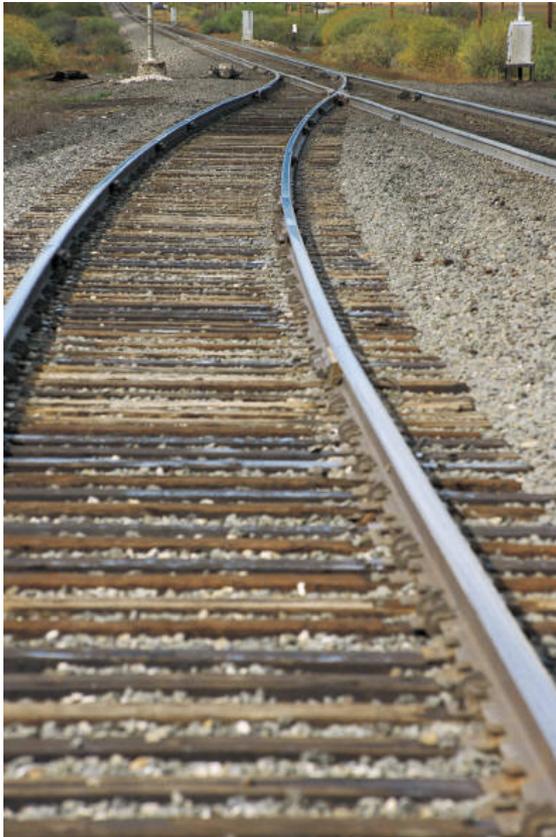
Building resilience— inclusive humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction and social protection.

We invest in:

We will take a twin-track approach (implementing disability-inclusive development through mainstreamed and targeted efforts). We will promote 'reasonable accommodation'—encouraging support for people with disabilities (as required and based on what is reasonable in the given circumstances) to enable them to participate in, and benefit from, our development efforts.



Approach to disability-inclusive development



Mainstream disability-inclusion

- Integration of disability-inclusion in mainstream aid investments and programs

Disability-specific activities

Addressing barriers and promoting opportunities for all – for example:

- Increasing capacity of Disabled People's Organisations to engage & lead on inclusive development
- Supporting government efforts towards inclusive national policies



Approach to disability-inclusive development

- ‘Reasonable accommodation’— encouraging support for people with disabilities to enable them to participate in, and benefit from, our development efforts
- Strategic partnerships to leverage broader change
 - governments, multilateral organisations, civil society including disabled people’s organisations, and increasingly, the private sector
- Indo-Pacific program focus
- International advocacy, diplomatic efforts and aid investments.



‘Nothing about us without us’

- Promote active participation and leadership by people with disabilities in the aid program
- Work with disabled people’s organisations to build capacity and promote leadership and decision making by people with disabilities at all levels
- Draw on the perspectives and lived experience of people with disabilities to inform effective development initiatives





Evidence and data



- Build and share evidence on effective interventions internally and with partners
- Strengthen collection of internationally comparable disability data
 - including by advocating use of the Washington Group short set of disability questions in censuses
- Work with implementing partners to disaggregate data by disability status to understand how well our investments are reaching people with disabilities



Rationale for investing in better disability data

Level	Why	How
Global	To monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for people with disabilities	SDG reporting
National	To encourage partner governments to place sufficient effort on providing appropriate programs and services for people with disabilities	Censuses Administrative surveys
Program	To demonstrate that the benefits of programs are reaching people with disabilities	Program M&E frameworks



DFAT's data partnerships

Consistent with DFAT's focus on evidence and data, we have strategic aid investments with:

- Washington Group on Disability Statistics/ University College London
- UNICEF/ Washington Group on child functioning
- UN Statistical Division
- Australian Bureau of Statistics
- Broader statistics strengthening work in the Pacific



DFAT's partnership with the Washington Group

Administrative and technical support through University College London

Aim: to improve the collection and analysis of disability statistics globally by strengthening the capacity of the Washington Group to:

- broadly disseminate their existing tools to collect disability data,
- provide technical assistance to support their uptake and consistent use, and
- engage in new work on measures of participation and functional limitations related to mental health.



DFAT's partnership with UNICEF on child functioning

Aim: to improve the availability, quality and use of data on children with disabilities

Australia is supporting UNICEF to partner with the United Nations Washington Group on Disability Statistics to:

- complete a set of survey questions which countries can insert into their existing national data collection processes (such as censuses) to provide internationally comparable data on children with disabilities
- develop of a second set of survey questions to understand the barriers and facilitators to children with disabilities accessing quality education (both in and out of school)

Once completed, these survey questions will be used to improve data collection on children with disabilities in UNICEF's Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)



DFAT's partnership with UN Statistical Division

Aim: to enhance the capacity of national statistical offices to produce and disseminate good quality and fit-for-purpose statistics on disability for evidence-based policy making and monitoring.

Supporting a team of two dedicated disability statisticians in UNSD to:

- enhance the knowledge base on disability statistics, by taking stock of existing disability measurements and producing technical guidelines based on good practices; and
- build the capacity of national statistical systems to efficiently collect and generate adequate and quality disability statistics that can be used to formulate, implement and monitor disability inclusive development policies and programmes.



Strengthening disability statistics in the Pacific

Access to good data is a challenge in the Pacific, particularly about people with disabilities

The Pacific statistics strengthening program provides technical assistance to Pacific island countries and territories to improve their collection, analysis and dissemination of economic and social statistics

The recent 2020 Pacific census planning workshop promoted uptake of internationally standardised core sets of census questions in the 2020 World round of population and housing censuses

- Includes the Washington Group short set of six questions



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Producing a WG disability prevalence rate in Australia – the Supplementary Disability Survey

Washington Group's Partnership with DFAT – Session 9

Presented by: Louise Gates - Director, Health Section, Australian Bureau of Statistics



www.abs.gov.au



Currently 3 sources of ABS disability data

Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC)

- ~ 75 questions to identify disability (more than 1000 in total)
- frequency: every 3-4 years
- provides accurate prevalence rates and detailed need for assistance

Short Disability Module

- 10 questions
- frequency: included in most ABS social surveys since 2002
- provides 'specific limitation or restriction' and 'profound/severe core activity limitation'

Census Need for Assistance

- 4 questions
- frequency: 2006, 2011 and upcoming 2016
- provides data about need for assistance with everyday activities and the reason for this need





The Washington Group short set of questions will be asked of a sub-set of respondents to the 2015 ABS Survey of Disability Ageing and Carers (SDAC).

1. WG prevalence estimates for Australia
2. Detailed comparison of responses to WG and SDAC 2015



Collection Methodology

- Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI)
- Households
- Any Responsible Adult (ARA)
- ARA – respond for themselves firstly for each question



Outcomes for the WG Community

- A unique opportunity for comparison with the very detailed SDAC
- Australia will be well positioned to assist other countries/NSOs to incorporate these questions into their statistical programs
- The ABS is also exploring options for incorporating other sources of data (e.g. administrative data) on disability