



# Multiplying impact: Disability Inclusion Technical Advisors in FCDO

**Project timeline:** October 2019 – September 2023

**Project budget:** £435k

**Capturing the power of collaboration:** Sightsavers, in liaison with all 11 Disability Inclusive Development - Inclusive Futures consortium partners.

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Disability Inclusive Development - Inclusive Futures is working to innovate and scale solutions to increase disability inclusion in mainstream development and humanitarian programmes. Through this six-year £29 million initiative, working with ten consortium partners in six countries, the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) have made an outstanding investment, highlighting the UK government's commitment to inclusion.



## FCDO's vision

The FCDO's vision is one of an **inclusive future**. The [FCDO disability inclusion and rights strategy 2022 to 2030. Building an inclusive future for all: a sustainable rights-based approach](#) highlights a responsibility to integrate inclusion across everything FCDO do. From policy, programming, and diplomacy, to influencing, procurement and safeguarding, FCDO are aiming to mainstream disability inclusion across the full breadth of their global network, adapting to country priorities and capabilities.

We supported the FCDO to build capacity and implement its commitments to mainstream disability inclusion through seconding three disability inclusion Technical Advisors from Sightsavers and Humanity and Inclusion. This formed a key part of Disability Inclusive Development - Inclusive Futures' work on evidence uptake - to ensure that new learning and evidence is shared across the global development community, including within national governments.

# How our Technical Advisors made a difference

Technical Advisors provided high quality advice on disability inclusion in support of the implementation of the FCDO disability inclusion and rights strategy. Their expertise was employed across multiple FCDO departments, including Private Sector and Growth and Resilience Departments; Health Outcomes Strategy Team; the Energy, Climate and Environment Directorate; and the Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department - as well as a role advising Africa regional offices.

Technical Advisors began with a deep dive into FCDO operations and programmes, to gain in-depth knowledge to contribute to strategic decision making. Over a four-year period, they then improved awareness and knowledge among FCDO staff, supported mainstreaming disability inclusion into programmes and policies, and provided strategic support to decision makers **via**:

- **Portfolio reviews** to assess the disability inclusiveness of programmes and policies within FCDO departments. Technical Advisors subsequently developed disability inclusion action plans, scoped out the support required and monitored them regularly.
- **Technical advice** to strengthen the disability inclusiveness of strategic programmes and policies. From developing policy position papers on [Health systems strengthening for global health security and universal health coverage](#) to contributing to a British International Investment<sup>1</sup> [guidance note on disability inclusion](#), Technical Advisors had a wide impact.

Listen to our three expert Technical Advisors share their views and experiences on disability inclusion and discuss their secondments with FCDO in our [citizen reporting podcast](#).

- **Training staff and leaders** to improve thought leadership in disability inclusion and understanding on mainstreaming at all levels up to Permanent Undersecretary. Technical Advisors identified opportunities to support and increase staff capacity, often through Disability Inclusive Development - Inclusive Futures' Disability Inclusion Helpdesk research service. The Helpdesk project was delivered concurrently by Social Development Direct.
- **Producing guidance materials** on disability inclusion related to specific themes for each department, from humanitarian response to climate change. Designed for staff to use internally, these provided practical examples of good practice in programmes, lists of considerations for partners, and links to relevant research.
- **External engagement with strategic partners** including contributions to global initiatives such as UN resolutions, WHO reports, donor collaboratives, and global summits, such as a [UK government sponsored panel on women and girls with disabilities](#) with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health during the Commission on the Status of Women.
- **Hands-on technical support** our expert Technical Advisors offered bespoke support that responded to the needs of their department. Services ranged from providing script notes on inclusion for delegates attending global events, including COP 27, and reviewing funding propositions to writing op-eds for publication in major humanitarian media outlets such as [Devex](#).

# Project impact



From 2019 – 2023, the Technical Advisors' expertise on disability inclusion supported over five FCDO departments to demonstrate tangible progress towards the FCDO's commitments to mainstream disability inclusion in everything it does. **Their work contributed towards advancing policies and social norms that work for everyone.**



Highlights included providing recommendations to the Green Climate Fund on disability inclusion; proposing approved text on disability and climate action for the **UN Inclusive Development for and with Persons with Disabilities resolution**, inputting to the **WHO Global Report on Health Equity for Persons with Disabilities** and delivering pioneering work on private investment in disability inclusion.

## Breaking barriers for people with disabilities

Disability inclusion is critical for reaching the Global Goals and we have produced the evidence on what works in a range of different areas. We now need the allocation of resources to ensure data and evidence produced leads to increased action.

**To find out more visit**

**[inclusivefutures.org/evidence-and-resources](https://inclusivefutures.org/evidence-and-resources)** or contact Claire Walsh at **[cwalsh@sightsavers.org](mailto:cwalsh@sightsavers.org)**.

### Endnotes

1 In 2022, CDC Group changed their name to British International Investment.