

# **JICA Survey and Analysis on Promotion of Disability Mainstreaming and Inclusion in JICA's Operations**

## **Executive Summary**

### **1. Objective and Methodology of the Survey**

In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which promotes and protects the equal enjoyment of all human rights by all persons with disabilities and promotes respect for their inherent dignity. In Article 32 of the Convention, the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international cooperation is underlined. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, sets “leave no one behind” as the central and transformative promise and calls for the inclusion of all vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, to be included in the development process and to enjoy its benefits.

However, persons with disabilities, especially in developing countries, still face various barriers and discrimination, and are in difficult situations such as poverty and social isolation. Furthermore, the global outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has had a tremendous negative impact on vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities. Persons with disabilities are among those most affected by COVID-19, experiencing greater poverty, and their access to health care, education, and other services has become even more difficult.

Japan's Development Cooperation Charter (revised in June 2023) sets “inclusive” for “quality growth” that is to leave no one behind in one of the priority policies along with “sustainable” and “resilient”<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the Charter indicates “Promoting inclusive societies, including gender mainstreaming and ensuring equity” in one of the implementation principles. This leads Japan toward inclusive development to promote diverse and inclusive societies where all people, including persons with disabilities, can participate in and benefit from development<sup>2</sup>.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is committed to “disability and development” to realize respect for the human rights of persons with disabilities, and their “full participation and equity” and an inclusive society, adopting a twin-track approach that comprises disability mainstreaming and disability-specific interventions<sup>3</sup>. “JICA Global Agenda for Social Security/ Disability”<sup>4</sup> in 2022 sets as one of the main initiatives to promote disability-inclusive development in all JICA projects. However, JICA has not established any specific organizational targets or strategies for disability inclusion. Furthermore, its efforts in this area are limited and fragmented throughout its operations. The

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<sup>1</sup> pp.6-7, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, *Development Cooperation Charter -Japan's Contributions to the Sustainable Development of a Free and Open World* (June 2023). ([100514705.pdf \(mofa.go.jp\)](https://www.mofa.go.jp/100514705.pdf)), accessed 16 August 2023)

<sup>2</sup> p.19, Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> [JICA Thematic Guidelines: Disability and Development \(2015\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [JICA Global Agenda for Social Security/ Disability \(2022\)](#)

concluding observation of the Japan's review of CRPD in August 2022 also pointed out these issues. In order to accelerate JICA's commitment to "disability and development", the organization now needs to establish organizational policies and targets to guide its efforts for further promoting disability inclusion and disability-inclusive development.

Against this background, JICA is expected to play a pivotal role in advancing disability inclusion in Japan's international cooperation. The "JICA Survey and Analysis on Promotion of Disability Mainstreaming and Inclusion in JICA's Operations" (hereinafter referred to as "the Survey") was conducted to provide JICA with information and recommendations to improve the system and practice and develop relevant guidelines for further advancing disability-inclusive development in JICA's operations.

The Survey was conducted from December 2022 to August 2023. This report was compiled by analyzing the information and data collected through a literature review and online interview survey. The structure of this report is as follows:

- Chapter 1. Objective and Methodology of the Survey
- Chapter 2. International Trends and Efforts in Mainstreaming Disability Inclusion  
in International Cooperation
- Chapter 3. Efforts of International Development Organizations in Disability-inclusive Development
- Chapter 4. Case Studies on Disability Inclusion in JICA Projects
- Chapter 5. Recommendations for Advancing Disability-Inclusive Development in JICA's Operations

## **2. International Trends and Efforts in Mainstreaming Disability Inclusion in International Cooperation**

Chapter 2 outlines international trends and efforts in disability-inclusive international cooperation, and then summarizes the "OECD-DAC policy marker on the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities" (OECD-DAC Disability Policy Marker) introduced in 2018. Subsequently, the report analyzes the observations of Article 32 "International Cooperation" by the UN CRPD Committee in OECD countries.

In light of the demands of the CRPD and the 2030 Agenda, the momentum for promoting disability inclusion in international cooperation has grown in recent years in the international community, including UN agencies and bilateral development organizations. The first World Inclusion Summit was held at the G7 Summit (Schloss Elmau, Germany) in 2022 and the Summit is planned to be held at future G7 summits. The Global Disability Summits held in 2018 and 2022 have made great strides in promoting disability inclusion efforts in the international community. Over 7,000 people attended the second Global Disability Summit in 2022, and 193 organizations announced 1,412 commitments. The adoption of the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy in 2019 has been instrumental in accelerating the

promotion of disability inclusion across UN agencies and international cooperation.

The OECD-DAC Disability Policy Marker was introduced in 2018 to accurately monitor the disability inclusion efforts in international cooperation projects. Since its introduction, its use has gradually expanded, and it is expected to contribute to the progress of disability inclusion in international cooperation as indicated in the CRPD. As for Japan, the total value of the disability-inclusive projects (total value of the projects with scores of 2 and 1 of the Marker) was outstandingly high. However, the percentage of the disability-inclusive projects was 1.7% in 2021, ranking third from the bottom among the countries reporting on the Disability Policy Marker.

Regarding the CRPD concluding observations of Article 32 “international cooperation” for each country, a comparison of the 32 OECD member countries showed that only Sweden received a positive statement in 2014: “the committee commends the State on its adaptation of both the mainstreaming and twin-track approaches to disability-inclusive development work”. The concluding observations of Norway and Switzerland include some statements regarding disability policy marker. Overall, the concluding observations related to Article 32 emphasize the participation of persons with disabilities in international cooperation projects.

### **3. Efforts of International Development Organizations in Disability-inclusive Development**

Chapter 3 summarizes how international development organizations, bilateral donors, and international NGOs practice disability inclusion in their management, programming and operations, and advance their efforts towards disability-inclusive development. The information was collected in the following 11 international organizations through a literature review, questionnaire, and interview surveys, covering leadership and policies/strategies, guidance documents, implementing structure, program management, monitoring and evaluation, organizational culture, and the participation of persons with disabilities.

International Development Bank	- The World Bank - Asian Development Bank (ADB) - Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
United Nations Organizations	- International Labour Organization (ILO) - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Bilateral Agencies	- United States Agency for International (USAID) - Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) - Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) - Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche (BMZ) / Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) - Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
NGO	- Save the Children

#### **4. Case Studies on Disability Inclusion in JICA Projects**

For the case studies to examine disability inclusion efforts in JICA projects, five Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects (loan and grant projects) were selected. The summary of the case studies was separately developed for distribution, including the efforts, background, and contributing factors to promote disability inclusion in each project. Chapter 4 summarizes the analysis of efforts and challenges in mainstreaming disability inclusion in JICA projects.

Project Title	
1	Dhaka Mass Rapid Transit Development Project, Bangladesh (ODA Loan)
2	The Project for the Improvement of Governance and Management Research and Training Facilities, Bangladesh (ODA Grant)
3	New Ulaanbaatar International Airport Construction Project, Mongolia (ODA Loan)
4	The Project for the Improvement of Facilities for Primary and Secondary Education in Ulaanbaatar City, Mongolia (ODA Grant)
5	Kampala Flyover Construction and Road Upgrading Project, Uganda (ODA Loan)

Through the case studies, while good practices in disability inclusion were identified, it was found that these efforts were based on the knowledge and initiative of the project stakeholders or based on national regulations and international standards (such as universal access) in the target countries. The key points and challenges for promoting disability inclusion in JICA projects through the case studies are as follows:

- Incorporating the disability perspectives from project planning and formulation phase.
- Promoting understanding of the project counterparts on disability inclusion.
- Collaborating with JICA projects and human resources in the disability field and utilization of their knowledge.
- Supporting the development of universal access and other disability-related laws and standards.
- Further utilizing the ODA consultants' skills and experience.
- Promoting the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities.

## **5. Recommendations for Advancing Disability-Inclusive Development in JICA's Operations**

Chapter 5 summarizes recommendations for advancing disability-inclusive development in JICA's operation based on the Survey. The ten recommendations are listed below. Based on the recommendations, it is expected that JICA will take concrete measures to promote mainstreaming disability inclusion in projects and disability-inclusive development.

### **Recommendation 1 Development of the organizational strategy of disability inclusion /disability-inclusive development**

JICA needs to develop its organizational strategy that outlines concrete measures to promote disability inclusion in JICA's projects /disability-inclusive development.

### **Recommendation 2 Strengthening organizational structure for the promotion of disability-inclusive development**

It is necessary to establish an organizational structure that enables steady efforts to promote disability-inclusive development in JICA. Additionally, it can be considered to establish a committee of external experts, including persons with disabilities, to provide advice on JICA's efforts towards disability-inclusive development.

### **Recommendation 3 Institutionalizing and strengthening measures to mainstream disability inclusion in projects programming and operations**

Disability inclusion measures need to be institutionalized to be structurally incorporated in projects programming and operations.

### **Recommendation 4 Strengthening disability inclusion in environmental and social considerations**

Disability inclusion efforts need to be strengthened in environmental and social considerations to ensure that the interests and rights of persons with disabilities are protected.

### **Recommendation 5 Strengthening monitoring and evaluation of disability inclusive-development with OECD-DAC Disability Policy Marker**

JICA needs to promote the appropriate use of OECD-DAC Disability Policy Markers and strengthen monitoring and evaluation of disability inclusion in the projects.

### **Recommendation 6 Accumulation of good practices in disability-inclusive development**

It is useful to accumulate good practices through pilot projects or activities of mainstreaming disability inclusion.

**Recommendation 7 Development of sector-specific guidelines**

It is important to develop sector-specific guidelines that provide specific methods and guidance for mainstreaming disability inclusion in projects and disability-inclusive development.

**Recommendation 8 Promoting understanding and building capacity of the JICA staff and the stakeholders (ODA consultants, NGOs, etc.)**

In promoting disability-inclusive development, it is essential to promote understanding and strengthen the capacity of the JICA staff and the stakeholders.

**Recommendation 9 Strengthening of cooperation with international development organizations, disability-related international networks, and organizations of persons with disabilities**

Information sharing and collaboration on disability-inclusive development with international development organizations and disability-related international networks, and organizations of persons with disabilities should be strengthened.

**Recommendation 10 Consider and promote inclusive approaches**

It is critical to consider and promote inclusive approaches that include gender and other marginalized groups.