



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS: EVALUATION OF AUSTRALIAN ADVOCACY FOR DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

DECEMBER 2017

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Cover photo: Participants in a training on ‘Strengthening the Role of Women with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action’ organised by the National Forum of Women with Disabilities in partnership with the Women’s Refugee Commission. Designed for women DPO leaders, this training which was held in Islamabad, Pakistan in 2016, increased the capacity of women with disabilities to be effective advocates on women’s and disability issues by increasing their understanding of the humanitarian system, identifying opportunities for inclusion of women and girls with disabilities within the humanitarian system and supporting the development of collaborative advocacy plans. © SADF/ STEP

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The Office of Development Effectiveness (ODE)

ODE is an office within the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) independent of aid program management. ODE monitors the Australian aid program’s performance, and evaluates its impact. ODE’s work is overseen by the Independent Evaluation Committee, an advisory body that provides independent expert advice on ODE’s evaluation strategy, work plan, analysis and reports.

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FOREWORD

Supporting people with disability is not just ‘the right thing to do’ it is an economic imperative. Eighty per cent of people with disabilities live in developing countries, and one-in-five of the world’s poorest having a disability. The 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper rightly identifies reducing poverty and tackling inequality as core objectives for Australia’s assistance. Addressing the needs of people with disability is key to this.

Australia has been an active and visible proponent of disability inclusive development at a global level since 2009 when the first ‘*Development for All*’ strategy was launched. The strategy recognised the strong link between disability and poverty and underscored the need to support the inherent dignity and human rights of people with disabilities. A second strategy is now in place and Australia’s development assistance and advocacy for disability inclusiveness has deepened and matured.

While DFAT has come a long way in establishing the benefits of gender diversity, with the range of priorities facing development partners there are many people who remain sceptical or unconvinced about the importance of a focus on disability. This is particularly the case when there are limited resources. Given this challenge, this evaluation focuses on Australia’s efforts to advocate for greater inclusion in global policies and programs. It argues that by actively influencing international agreements and the policies and programs of other donors, Australia has both increased the benefits of its assistance and had a more far reaching impact. These positive findings demonstrate that in this area Australia’s leadership has effectively and positively contributed to recent progress in disability policies and programs. There are however more opportunities for disability inclusion that should be exploited.

The evaluation does not underestimate the fact that improving the lives of people with disabilities is a multi-generational endeavour and aid funding can only do so much. Partner governments must build and expand opportunities for people with disabilities through policy and legislative frameworks and improved service delivery on the ground. Support and advocacy from donors, institutions, non-government organisations and activists at a global level helps to create the platform for change. But it is partner countries themselves that, ultimately, will make the greatest difference.



Jim Adams

Chair, Independent Evaluation Committee

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
COSP	Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DFID	United Kingdom's Department for International Development
DPOs	disabled peoples' organisations
DPR	People's Representative Council, Indonesia's national legislature
DRF	Disability Rights Fund
DRR	disaster risk reduction
GBV	gender-based violence
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
GPE	Global Partnership for Education
IDA	International Disability Alliance
MDB	multilateral development bank
NGO	non-government organisation
PDF	Pacific Disability Forum
PWD	persons/ people with disabilities
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UNPRPD	United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
WRC	Women's Refugee Commission

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

People with disabilities represent some 15 per cent of the global population and are over-represented in the ‘bottom billion’ of the world’s extreme poor. Meeting the needs of people with disabilities is central to achieving inclusive growth, addressing inequality and realising the ambition to ‘leave no one behind’ that is enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Australian aid program has had strategies to support disability-inclusive development since 2009. The ‘*Development for All*’ strategies of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) have aimed to improve the lives of people with disabilities by making Australian development assistance more disability-inclusive and having broader impacts through advocacy work. Advocacy to shape the policies and programs of bilateral, multilateral and other development agencies has the potential to deliver exponential benefits for people living with disability above and beyond what can be achieved by Australian development assistance.

This evaluation

This evaluation focuses on the global advocacy work of DFAT. It does not directly consider advocacy at the regional, national or sub-national level. Global advocacy work has deployed a range of complementary actions and approaches. This evaluation examines the most significant, in terms of effort and funding, of these:

- Advocacy for disability inclusion in global policy processes
- Building the capacity of other advocates, including disabled people’s organisations (DPOs)
- Strengthening the evidence base through improving data collection on disability
- Influencing partner agencies through policy dialogue and funding
- Building and working in coalitions to strengthen advocacy

The evaluation findings are based on the views of a wide range of stakeholders external to DFAT (representatives of DPOs, United Nations agencies, other development and humanitarian organisations and bilateral donors) and DFAT staff. The views of external stakeholders were obtained using a survey (31 respondents) and semi-structured interviews (32 interviewees). The views of current and past DFAT staff were obtained from interviews (24 interviewees). Additional information was derived from review of DFAT and partner documentation and published evaluation reports.

Effectiveness of DFAT’s advocacy

The evaluation found strong evidence that DFAT’s advocacy has been overall effective. About 85 per cent of survey respondents rated Australia’s advocacy as effective or highly effective.

The evaluation identified several short-term outcomes flowing, in significant part, from DFAT’s global advocacy. The evaluation found that the capacity of DPOs has grown and continues to grow. DFAT’s support has increased the capacity of other advocates, built coalitions and helped crowd-in other bilateral donors. Australian support

has contributed to the development of much-needed tools for collecting disability data, the Washington Group Questions, and there is broad consensus supporting their use.

These short-term outcomes have, over the past couple of years, led to important intermediate outcomes. The nexus between disability and development is increasingly accepted by a broad range of organisations as a legitimate, and necessary, component of development discourse. People with disabilities and their organisations now have greater voice, and are increasingly central drivers of disability inclusion. Advocacy has helped transform policies of the United Nations system, UN agencies and other organisations. Disability inclusion is now an integral part of humanitarian and development frameworks.

The evaluation found little evidence that advocacy has made the development practices of DFAT's partners and others more disability inclusive. This is not unexpected given that policies have only recently become more inclusive and implementation of new frameworks and policies will take time. Further, it remains to be seen if changes in development policies and practices will translate into the key high-level outcome of improvements in the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Factors influencing effectiveness

The evaluation identified factors that have helped make DFAT's advocacy effective. One key factor was Australia's credibility as an advocate. All survey respondents felt Australian advocacy was either credible or highly credible. This credibility is based on well regarded domestic disability policies and the *'Development for All'* strategies. DFAT has embraced and modelled the principle of *'Nothing about us without us'*, aligning Australian advocacy with best practice. Credibility also stems from advocacy being consistent, strong and sustained for many years. DFAT's advocacy was viewed to be strong as it crossed many levels of DFAT's engagement, including at the political and ministerial levels, as well as senior management levels. Supporting 'talk' with funding and actions also built credibility.

Advocacy has also been effective as DFAT, by and large, partnered with the right organisations, used the most appropriate approaches and strategically used relatively small amounts of funding to address the most important and pressing needs. Many partners viewed the way in which DFAT built coalitions and worked in partnership with DPOs as highly effective. The effectiveness of Australian advocacy also reflects the efforts of DFAT staff, who were seen by partners as highly committed and informed. Staff members of the Disability Section in the Development Policy Division in Canberra have engaged broadly, developed strong relationships and are well respected. The strong commitment and dynamism of DFAT staff at Australian missions in Geneva and New York also helped produce strong results.

Where DFAT's advocacy was assessed as less effective, the contributing factors appeared to be a stop-start approach to engagement, partly driven by changes in key personnel, mixed signals over priority setting, and a failure to pick the right partners or build the necessary coalitions.

Value for money

The evaluation found Australian advocacy provides good value for money. Investments are relatively small, and funds have been used strategically to leverage other funding. Only about 0.2 per cent of Australia's ODA funding in 2016-17 was directed to global advocacy for disability inclusion. Australian advocacy has changed the approaches and policies of development agencies, which will improve disability inclusion across their work. Australian support to build the advocacy of DPOs will help protect gains and drive further work.

Australian leadership

The evaluation found that Australia is seen and valued as a leader in disability-inclusive development. About 40 per cent of survey respondents felt Australia had shown significant leadership and just over 40 per cent thought

Australia was a highly influential leader. In some contexts, DFAT is seen to be the leading advocate for disability inclusion and is the go-to partner for engagement, intellectual input and funding. As a member of the UN Human Rights Council, Australia has committed to upholding and promoting the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, particularly in relation to the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Development Agenda. Working closely with likeminded states, multilateral organisations and non-government organisations (NGOs), Australia has promoted a rights-based approach to disability-inclusive humanitarian action, education systems and social protection schemes.

There is evidence that DFAT's international advocacy work has been innovative and provided a model for others. DFAT has demonstrated leadership through a willingness to take risks, such as being the first supporter of progressive initiatives like the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) and the International Disability Alliance (IDA). It has had an ambitious agenda, including promoting reform in the operations of UN agencies. DFAT has led and strengthened collective advocacy by supporting other advocates and fostered cooperation by building and working in coalitions.

Future work

Improving disability inclusion is a generational project – it requires changes in beliefs and attitudes. Recent progress has come about after more than a decade of advocacy. The successes flowing from DFAT advocacy work are not fully secured and still have to be translated into more inclusive development practices that will improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. Continued advocacy and leadership by Australia will help to push development partners to work to operationalise inclusive development policies and meet the commitments they have made. Advocacy needs to be sustained to ensure hard-won advances are not lost and that progress continues. Australian advocacy for disability-inclusive development is, therefore, just as necessary now as it was 10 years ago.

The evidence reviewed in this evaluation strongly suggests that Australia should continue to be a leading advocate for disability-inclusive development. If DFAT were to pull back from its advocacy work, it could undermine the successes achieved. This would have negative consequences for Australia's standing, 'presence' and reputation more broadly.

The evaluation identified some areas where opportunities to advocate for disability inclusion have not been sufficiently exploited. Advocacy has not been prioritised or sustained in engagement with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Advocacy for disability inclusion has been inconsistent in global education programs, with opportunities missed in the Global Partnership for Education (GPE). There is also scope for advocacy to improve disability inclusion in global health programs.

The evaluation found that support for the Statistics Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) should be stopped, as work has not progressed as expected and the Division has stalled overall progress in use of the Washington Group Questions to collect disability data.

Recommendations

The evaluation makes four recommendations to secure and build on progress:

Recommendations	
1	<p>DFAT should continue its international advocacy for disability inclusion and as part of this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shift the focus of advocacy in global processes to supporting the implementation of and monitoring international commitments• Continue to support the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) to build the capacity of DPOs in Pacific countries and to increase country level implementation of the CRPD• Continue to monitor its overall engagement with people with disabilities and their organisations to ensure that this engagement is effective. This should include a questioning of who is the ‘us’ in <i>‘Nothing about us without us’</i>.
2	<p>DFAT should continue to support Australian leadership for disability-inclusive development, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting innovative work in areas of key need• Working to identify what disability inclusion looks like in practice, including in humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction• Beginning the analysis, thinking and consultation that will inform the next <i>‘Development for All’</i> strategy.
3	<p>DFAT should identify and use opportunities to advocate for disability inclusion in its operations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Systematically examining global and regional development partnerships, with an initial focus on high value global and regional investments with the World Bank and ADB, to identify opportunities for renewed advocacy for disability inclusion• Examining sectoral strategies to test their alignment with the <i>‘Development for All’</i> strategy• Ensuring consistency in DFAT advocacy for disability inclusion across key Posts• Increasing staff awareness that disability inclusion is a cross-cutting priority.
4	<p>DFAT should act decisively and end funding to the Statistics Division of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for work on disability statistics</p>

MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Summary

DFAT welcomes the findings of the Office of Development Effectiveness' (ODE's) evaluation of Australia's international advocacy for disability-inclusive development, and the opportunity it provides to refocus and build on existing advocacy efforts. The evaluation provides valuable insights and recommendations that build on DFAT's inclusive approach as outlined in Development for All 2015-2020 -Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program.

While focused on global advocacy, the report's recommendations are broadly applicable to DFAT's advocacy on disability inclusion at regional and national levels. The report is an opportunity to reflect on our work to date and how we can adjust our advocacy efforts so that they translate into greater on the ground improvements in the quality of life for people with disabilities – particularly in our region.

DFAT commits to continuing its role as a leading disability advocate. We will work to bring other partners on board, recognising that achieving better life outcomes for people with disabilities will require ongoing efforts by both Australia and other partners.

DFAT agrees with recommendations one, two and three. These recommendations support and validate the approaches and directions that DFAT is currently undertaking. DFAT strongly supports maintaining an inclusive approach so that the voices of people with disabilities remain central to our international advocacy and development efforts. DFAT will continue to raise issues of inclusion in our dialogue with humanitarian partners, UN agencies, development banks, bilateral partners and key regional organisations on emphasising the importance of meeting international commitments such as the UN Convention of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We will advocate for our bilateral and multilateral partners to invest more time and resources into efforts to increase disability inclusion within their programs of work.

DFAT disagrees with recommendation Four. Immediately ending funding to UN Statistics Division would pre-empt an existing performance management process to improve the outcomes of this underperforming investment. Should improvements not be demonstrable by the end of the current program cycle, a process of termination of the Partnership will commence.

The action plan identified in the management response will be overseen by DFAT's Disability Section (DS) and implemented by the following DFAT areas: Development Policy Division (DPD), Humanitarian, NGOs and Partnerships Division (HPD), Pacific Division (PAD), Multilateral Development and Finance Division (MDD), Multilateral Policy Division (MPD) and all Pacific Posts, together with DFAT Posts at UN New York, UN Geneva and Washington DC.

Responses to each recommendation

Response	Action Plan	Responsible area and timeframe
Recommendation 1 DFAT should continue its international advocacy for disability inclusion and as part of this:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shift the focus of advocacy in global processes to supporting the implementation and monitoring of international commitments 		
<p>Agree. DFAT agrees that with the adoption of numerous international commitments (and connected regional commitments) it is timely to shift the focus of our advocacy towards support for the implementation and monitoring of these commitments to improve disability inclusion.</p> <p>Key commitments that we will focus on include: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD), Sendai Framework and the World Humanitarian Summit outcomes.</p>	<p>DFAT will increasingly focus its international advocacy on supporting the implementation and monitoring of disability inclusion in key international and regional commitments, including by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting a disability inclusive focus in the formulation of UN and other partner strategies, work programs and resource allocations, including setting targets and indicators for accountability Contributing to a disability-inclusion strategy and lobbying for the collection of disability disaggregated data within the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) Supporting the development of global guidelines on implementation of the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action ('Disability Charter') Building the capacity of persons with disabilities, and their representative organisations, to engage with humanitarian organisations to promote good practices Promoting disability inclusion in data collection and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Continuing to advocate that the inclusion of persons with disabilities be recognised in any new international or regional commitment, for example the Global Compact on Refugees and Migrants. 	<p>HPD, MDD (GLB), UN New York, UN Geneva, DPD (DIS), ongoing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) to build the capacity of DPOs in Pacific countries and to increase country level implementation of the CRPD 		

<p>Agree. DFAT has a current (2017-2020) funding partnership with PDF. PDF is DFAT's key regional DPO partner in the Pacific. DFAT will consider other options for building the capacity of DPOs in Pacific countries and increasing country level implementation of the CRPD, as opportunities arise.</p>	<p>DFAT will continue to leverage its partnerships with the International Disability Alliance (IDA), Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF) and CBM Australia to support the capacity building of the PDF and other DPOs in Pacific Island countries.</p> <p>DFAT will collaborate with Pacific DPOs to advocate for the implementation and monitoring of the CRPD and the Pacific Framework for Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PRFPD).</p> <p>DFAT will look to further support the capacity building of Pacific DPOs by meaningfully engaging with DPOs in the delivery of disability inclusive aid programing in the region.</p>	<p>DPD (DIS), PAD and Pacific Posts, ongoing</p> <p>PAD, Pacific Posts, ongoing</p> <p>PAD, Pacific Posts, ongoing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to monitor its overall engagement with people with disabilities and their organisations to ensure that this engagement is effective. This should include a questioning of who is the 'us' in 'Nothing about us without us'. 		
<p>Agree. DFAT is committed to engaging meaningfully with people with disabilities and their representative organisations, so people with disabilities continue to participate and benefit from development and humanitarian efforts. DFAT acknowledges that disability is part of the human condition and manifests itself differently for all individuals. It is highly influenced by context and environment, and the availability of reasonable accommodations can enable participation in all aspects of life. DFAT recognises that some groups are more at risk of marginalisation and this has implications for who we need to engage with to enable the continued inclusion of all people with disabilities.</p>	<p>DFAT will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintain a focus on supporting capacity building of DPOs at international, regional and national levels. • undertake an assessment of its engagement with DPOs at international, regional and national levels with a view to identifying any gaps and further opportunities • draw on advice from existing partnerships with IDA, DRAF and PDF to identify groups to include in advocacy and development efforts. • continue to take targeted actions to include in its development efforts people with a diverse range of disabilities. 	<p>DPD (DIS), Development Posts, ongoing</p> <p>DPD (DIS) by August 2018</p> <p>DPD (DIS), ongoing</p> <p>DPD (DIS) Development Posts, ongoing</p>

Response	Action Plan	Responsible area and timeframe
Recommendation 2 DFAT should continue Australian leadership for disability-inclusive development including through:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting innovative work in areas of key need 		
<p>Agree. DFAT agrees that Australia's leadership on disability-inclusive development should continue to support areas of key need where Australia has a comparative advantage. These currently include advocacy, DPO capacity building and supporting global capacity on disability data.</p>	<p>DFAT will continue supporting DPO capacity building and global capacity building on disability data.</p> <p>As part of the process for developing the new Development for All strategy, DFAT will begin discussions, including by consulting with the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network and PDF and through the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD, to identify key global and Indo-Pacific regional needs that could be supported. This process will assist with identifying innovative ways of working and areas of key need.</p>	<p>DPD (DIS), HPD, and Development Posts ongoing</p> <p>DPD (DIS) by July 2018</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working to identify what disability inclusion looks like in practice, including in humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction 		
<p>Agree. DFAT agrees that its global advocacy efforts need to move beyond promoting disability-inclusion to helping to demonstrate how, in practice, to deliver disability inclusive development and humanitarian action.</p>	<p>DFAT will develop and disseminate to external partners, including through the GLAD Network, good practice examples to support advocacy on disability inclusion.</p> <p>DFAT will continue to provide staff with guidance on what 'good practice' inclusion of people with disabilities looks like in advocacy efforts, aid programming, public diplomacy, humanitarian responses and disaster risk reduction. This guidance will support the inclusion of people with disabilities in program design, monitoring and evaluation, policy dialogue, advocacy and partnership development.</p>	<p>DPD (DIS) initially by July 2018 then ongoing</p> <p>DPD (DIS) initially by June 2018 then ongoing</p>

	<p>DFAT will increasingly include in future partnership agreements an expectation that development and humanitarian partners identify, document and share examples of good disability inclusion practice.</p> <p>DFAT will support the development of global guidelines for implementation of the Disability Charter.</p>	<p>MPD, MDD, DPD, HPD ongoing</p> <p>HPD, DPD (DIS) and UN Geneva 2017-20</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning the analysis, thinking and consultation that will inform the next 'Development for All' strategy. 		
<p>Agree. DFAT agrees that preliminary work on the next Development for All strategy should commence with sufficient lead-time to enable consideration by Government before the current existing strategy expires. DFAT notes that development of the existing strategy, which is current until 2020, occurred over an almost two-year period.</p>	<p>DFAT will draft a roadmap to guide consultation and the development of a new Development for All strategy. This will include the reviews and assessments proposed in response to other recommendations.</p>	<p>DPD (DIS) by May 2018</p>

Response	Action Plan	Responsible area and timeframe
<p>Recommendation 3: DFAT should identify and use opportunities to advocate for disability inclusion in its operations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematically examining global and regional development partnerships, with an initial focus on high value global and regional investments with the World Bank and ADB, to identify opportunities for renewed advocacy for disability inclusion 		
<p>Agree. DFAT acknowledges that there are likely to be untapped opportunities for further advocacy within its global and regional development partnerships.</p> <p>DFAT will continue to advocate and work with the World Bank and ADB, to identify opportunities for increased consideration of disability inclusion.</p>	<p>DFAT will review all multilateral strategic partnership agreements to assess how effectively they address disability inclusion and identify when and how to upgrade them.</p> <p>DFAT will include disability and gender as standing agenda items in its annual high-level consultations with UN agencies, World Health Organisation (WHO) and development banks.</p>	<p>MPD, MDD and DPD (DIS) by June 2018.</p> <p>MPD (IOB & GLB), MDD (BFB/RBS) and DPD (HPB) ongoing</p>

	<p>DFAT will continue to support improved disability inclusion in basic education through the Global Partnerships for Education through the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) Board and Committees.</p> <p>DFAT, in partnership with the Department of Health, will identify opportunities for renewed advocacy on disability with the WHO, including through the annual World Health Assembly.</p>	<p>MPD (IOB) & MDD (GLB) ongoing</p> <p>DPD (HPB) ongoing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examining sectoral strategies to test their alignment with the ‘Development for All’ strategy 		
<p>Agree. DFAT notes that many of its current sectoral strategies were developed prior to or concurrent with the development of the current Development for All strategy and as a consequence may not effectively address the cross-cutting issue of disability inclusion.</p>	<p>As sectoral strategies are reviewed, and the drafting of new versions commences, they will be assessed for consistency with Development for All and for opportunities to strengthen their alignment.</p> <p>DFAT will include consideration of disability in the terms of reference for evaluations reviewing the implementation of DFAT’s sectoral strategies.</p>	<p>DFAT owners of strategies ongoing</p> <p>ODE ongoing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving consistency of DFAT advocacy across key Posts 		
<p>Agree. DFAT agrees that there is scope for more consistent advocacy on disability inclusion by Posts that engage with: the UN, global funds, international financial institutions and other international organisations.</p>	<p>DFAT will identify entry points, and develop common messaging to shape consistent engagement with UN partners, WHO, Global Partnership on Education (GPE) and the development banks, including through Executive Board agenda items, country program documents, strategic plans, partnership agreements and other relevant negotiations.</p> <p>DFAT will continue to advocate for disability inclusion across the UN system. This includes through peace and security, humanitarian, human rights and development forums, including both formal and informal meetings, as well as through the administrative and management activities of the UN Secretariat. DFAT will also support advocacy for disability inclusion through treaty bodies and nominations of Australians to key bodies such as the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p>	<p>HPD, DPD, MPD, UNNY, UN Geneva, Washington DC, and Suva Posts (regional) ongoing</p> <p>MPD, UNNY, and UN Geneva ongoing</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing staff awareness that disability inclusion is a cross-cutting priority. 		

<p>Agree. Staff awareness of disability inclusion as a cross-cutting priority is key to identifying and acting on opportunities for advocacy and implementation of disability inclusion. This is particularly so at key DFAT posts and in areas of the department that manage relationships with global and regional partners</p>	<p>DFAT will provide Ministers and the Secretary with opportunities to convey to DFAT staff that disability inclusion is a cross cutting priority as reflected in the 2017 Foreign Policy White Paper for Australia's international engagement in human rights development and humanitarian action.</p>	<p>DPD (DIS) ongoing</p>
	<p>DFAT will strengthen efforts to build staff capability in disability inclusive development including through the introduction and strengthening of existing programs offered by the Diplomatic Academy.</p>	<p>DAC (CMG) ongoing</p>
	<p>DFAT's Humanitarian Strategy (2016) recognises that the inclusion of persons with disabilities is an important cross-cutting priority for humanitarian action. DFAT will continue to raise staff awareness, through training humanitarian officers in Canberra and at Post and through ensuring disability inclusion is a key criterion for evaluating our humanitarian programming and partnerships.</p>	<p>HPD, DAC (CMG) ongoing</p>

Response	Action Plan	Responsible area and timeframe
<p>Recommendation 4: DFAT should act decisively and end funding to the Statistics Division of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for work on disability statistics</p>		
<p>Disagree. DFAT notes that the partnership with UNSD has been identified as an investment requiring improvement.</p>	<p>A decision on DFAT's funding partnership with UNSD will be made after the next DFAT performance & quality cycle and due processes regarding performance of DFAT investments are followed. Should improvements not be demonstrable in the required period of time, a process of termination of the partnership will commence.</p>	<p>DPD (DIS)</p>

1. INTRODUCTION

People with disabilities represent some 15 per cent of the global population and are over-represented in the ‘bottom billion’ of the world’s extreme poor. Meeting the needs of people with disabilities is central to achieving inclusive growth, addressing inequality and in realising the ambition to ‘leave no one behind’ that is enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Australian aid program has had an explicit focus on disability-inclusive development since the launch of the *‘Development for All, towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program 2009- 2014’* strategy. *‘Development for All 2015-2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia’s aid program’* built on this strategy and is now mid-way through its implementation. *‘Nothing about us without us’* is the core guiding principle of Australia’s approach to work in disability and development. People with disabilities must be involved as active participants in and beneficiaries of development efforts.

Both *‘Development for All’* strategies have aimed to improve the lives of people with disabilities in two ways. First, by making Australian development assistance more disability inclusive and, second, by having broader impact through advocacy work to mobilise the resources of the global community to support disability inclusion.

Making development assistance disability inclusive is a complex undertaking for DFAT and its international development partners. The *Development for All 2015-2020* strategy is approaching the mid-point of implementation. It is therefore an opportune time for the Office of Development Effectiveness to evaluate how well the strategy is being implemented and what needs to be done to strengthen development outcomes for people with disabilities. This evaluation focuses on Australia’s international advocacy at a global level. A subsequent evaluation will evaluate the extent of disability inclusion in Australia’s development assistance.

1.1 Australia’s advocacy for disability-inclusive development

Influencing international agreements and the policies and programs of bilateral, multilateral and development agencies has exponential benefits for people living with disability above and beyond what can be achieved within Australia’s own aid program.

While the *Development for All* strategies and the processes that underpinned their development have been important advocacy tools, Australia has also deployed a diversity of explicit actions and approaches to change decision makers’ beliefs, policy and actions to ensure people with disabilities benefit equally from development. The most significant Australian advocacy work, in terms of effort and funding (Annex 1), includes:

- Advocacy for disability inclusion in global policy processes
- Building the capacity of other advocates, including disabled people’s organisations (DPOs)
- Strengthening the evidence base through improving data collection on disability

- Influencing partner agencies through policy dialogue and funding
- Building and working in coalitions to strengthen collective advocacy.

1.2 Evaluation purpose

The purpose of this evaluation is to assess the effectiveness and credibility of Australia's international advocacy for disability inclusion in development.

1.3 Evaluation use

The principal users of this evaluation will be staff of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), including the senior executive, policy makers in the Development Policy Division and aid program managers. Findings will inform and prioritise future advocacy work to support disability inclusion. The evaluation may also be of interest to other bilateral donors, development agencies and civil society organisations.

1.4 Evaluation scope

The evaluation covered DFAT's international advocacy at the global level, as this has been the focus of most of DFAT's advocacy work. The broad range of international advocacy work since 2008 was reviewed but recent work was more closely examined because of the availability of suitable informants and documentation. The evaluation does not cover DFAT advocacy at regional, national and sub-national levels.

1.5 Evaluation methodology

Assessing the effectiveness of advocacy work can be challenging as¹:

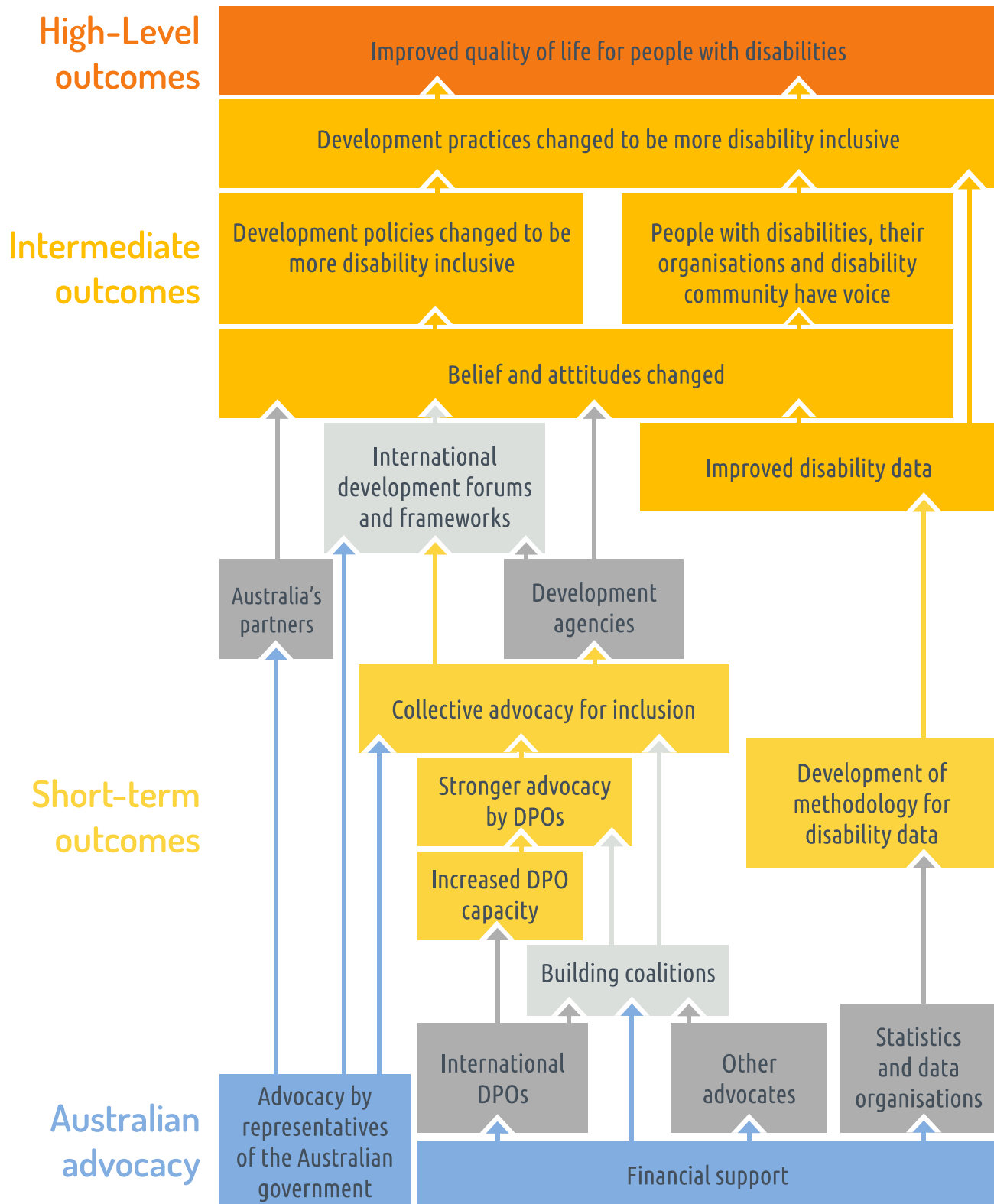
- Changes in beliefs and attitudes are difficult to measure
- Change typically happens incrementally over long periods
- The receptiveness of targets influence the effectiveness of advocacy as much as the quality of the advocacy. The political environment, economic considerations, relationships and cultural beliefs all influence receptiveness. In some contexts, and at some times, a variety of factors may align, so that, after long periods of advocacy, change happens quickly.
- Advocacy is often more effective when it is multifaceted and when there are multiple advocates, so it can be difficult to attribute outcomes to specific actions of a particular advocate.

A Theory of Change that recognises and maps the diversity of actions and approaches used by DFAT was developed to provide a framework for the evaluation (Figure 1). In this and other graphics, advocacy is coloured blue, while outcomes of advocacy are in shades of yellow to orange. The evaluation assessed the level, consistency and relevance of advocacy outputs, short-term outcomes (pale yellow) and intermediate outcomes (bright yellow) derived from

¹ Learning for Change: The Art of Assessing the Impact of Advocacy Work Author(s): Barry Coates and Rosalind David Source: Development in Practice, Vol. 12, No. 3/4 (Aug., 2002), pp. 530-541 Published by: Taylor & Francis, Ltd. on behalf of Oxfam GB Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4029522> and A guide to monitoring and evaluating policy influence. Harry Jones (Feb 2011), pp1-12 Background Notes-Overseas Development Institute www.odi.org.uk

attitudinal change. As the ultimate goal of advocacy is to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities (orange) the evaluation examined the extent to which this has been achieved.

Figure 1: Theory of Change for Australian advocacy for disability-inclusive development



The views of a wide range of stakeholders external to DFAT (representatives of DPOs, United Nations agencies, other development and humanitarian organisations and bilateral donors) were obtained using a survey (Table 1). Wherever possible, the survey was sent to individuals in the organisations who were known to be familiar with Australian advocacy work. Many representatives from other bilateral agencies chose to respond as individuals rather than providing an organisational response as this would have taken much longer.

Table 1: Organisations surveyed and response rates

Organisation	Number surveyed	Number of responses	Response rate %
UN agency	12	7	58
DPOs ²	2	2	100
Organisations with a focus on disability ³	6	4	67
Other international development organisations	6	6	100
Bilateral agencies	16	12	75
Total	42	31	74

Semi-structured interviews with DFAT staff and stakeholders external to DFAT (representatives of DPOs, UN agencies, other development and humanitarian organisations, organisations that focus on disability and bilateral donors) also provided information (Table 2). Interviews were conducted in person in Canberra, New York, Boston, Washington and Geneva, or remotely. Additional evidence was obtained from departmental and partner documentation and published evaluation reports. Annex 2 provides more detailed description of the methodology.

Table 2: Organisations interviewed

Organisation	Number of interviews	Number of participants
DPO	2	2
DFAT	15	25
UN agency	8	20
Organisations with a focus on disability	6	12
Other international development organisations	3	4
Bilateral agencies	2	2
Total	36	65

² DFAT does not have a formal definition of what constitutes a DPO but uses a working definition - 'any organisation that is by and for people with disabilities and represents their voices'. Other organisations use a more restrictive definition. The Disability Rights Fund (DRF), for example, defines DPOs as '*representative organisations or groups of persons with disabilities (PWDs), where PWDs constitute a majority of the overall staff, board, and volunteers in all levels of the organisation. It includes organisations of relatives of PWDs (only those representing children with disabilities, people with intellectual disabilities, and/or the Deafblind) where a primary aim of these organisations is empowerment and the growth of self-advocacy of persons with disabilities*'.

³ This includes organisations that provide services for, support and advocate for persons with disability.

1.6 Evaluation questions

Overarching questions

To what extent has Australian advocacy influenced global policy processes?

To what extent has Australia built the capacity of DPOs and supported their advocacy?

To what extent has Australia built coalitions to support collective advocacy?

To what extent has Australia supported disability data collection?

To what extent has Australia influenced partner agencies?

Is Australian advocacy credible?

To what extent has Australian advocacy (including DFAT-funded advocacy by others) been effective?

Has Australia been a leading advocate?

What factors have influenced the success of Australian advocacy?

1.7 Participation of people with disabilities

People with disabilities were involved in all stages of the evaluation. Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo, a global disability inclusion specialist, brought a depth of experience to the evaluation team. Representatives of recognised international DPOs were interviewed, surveyed and consulted in the planning and reporting stages of the evaluation.

2. ADVOCACY IN GLOBAL POLICY PROCESSES

Global agreements set the international norms for policies, behaviours and actions by governments and development partners on disability inclusion. These norms:

- Are used at a national and local level to reform laws, policies and programs and to hold governments accountable
- Direct the policies and programs of the UN development system and influence those of bilateral and other aid donors
- Spur additional intellectual work in the area, including in data collection, research, evaluation and reporting.

The 2015-16 period saw the finalisation of many of the major development policy processes that aim to reshape the global architecture of humanitarian action and development: in March 2015, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted; in September 2015, world leaders approved the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and in May 2016, the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) concluded in Istanbul. This period was marked by the questioning of older, outdated frameworks and an openness to new thinking. Significant progress on disability inclusion was achieved in all these processes, particularly in comparison to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), from which people with disabilities felt excluded.

DFAT identified disability inclusion as a priority theme for Australia's engagement in all these processes. While the degree of DFAT's impact varied between these policy processes, based on interviews, the survey and document review, it was clear that DFAT's advocacy on disability made a significant contribution. In the case of WHS, DFAT's engagement was crucial in bringing about a meaningful focus on inclusion.

2.1 Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) was the first of the overarching policies reviewed and reshaped. The resulting Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 included language on inclusion and an explicit focus on disability in its guiding principles and priorities.

The evaluation found strong evidence that DFAT's advocacy played a significant role in making the Framework disability inclusive. While the lead Australian agency involved in Sendai was the Attorney General's Department, DFAT entered the process with an endorsed position on inclusion that had ministerial support (interview, DFAT staff). In the period leading up to the formulation process, DFAT played a prominent role in supporting and promoting DPO engagement in consultations and worked with other like-minded donors, including Norway and other Scandinavian countries, to maintain the focus on disability inclusion (interviews, DFAT staff).

In the final negotiations, DFAT continued to support the disability community as a part of the 'other relevant groups' in formal negotiations. Australia helped ensure that the International Disability Alliance (IDA) had an ongoing role in

the process (survey, DPO). Two key DPOs rated the extent of DFAT’s advocacy through the Sendai process as either significant or very significant and felt it was either influential or very influential (survey). About 80 per cent of 12 survey respondents who had knowledge of Sendai processes rated DFAT’s advocacy as either significant or very significant and its level of influence as either influential or very influential (Figures 2 and 3).

Figure 2: Extent of Australian advocacy on the Sendai Framework for DRR

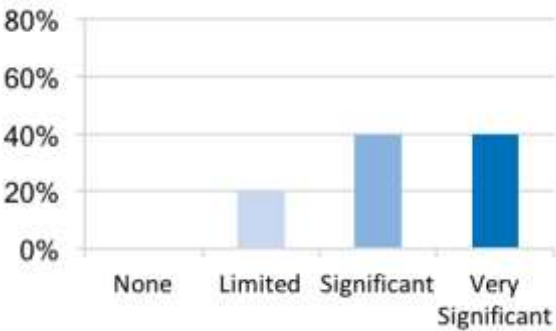
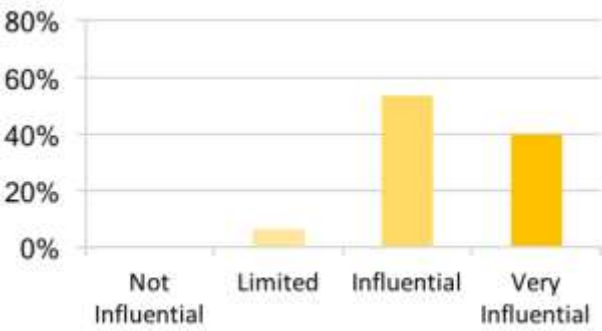


Figure 3: Influence of the Australian advocacy on the Sendai Framework for DRR



The support to DPOs to advocate for disability inclusion during the development of the Sendai Framework was very significant. The mark ups to the draft framework that many DPOs engaged in were in many instances supported by the Australian Government. The leadership role played by the Australian Government is well recognised. This resulted in an extremely disability-inclusive framework — [UN agency](#)

While the disability-inclusive language in the Framework document is an important outcome, work is needed to identify actions that will make DRR disability inclusive (interviews, DFAT staff and DPO). DFAT remains engaged in the follow-up work to Sendai (*‘Words Into Action’*), particularly through the working group on social protection.

DFAT is also pursuing this through its multi-year partnership with the World Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR). Australia has contributed more than \$33 million to GFDRR since 2007. GFDRR is a global partnership that helps countries to better understand and reduce their vulnerability to natural hazards and climate change. In May 2017, Australia announced a new three-year partnership (2017-20), totalling \$12.3 million. Through its participation in the GFDRR Consultative Group, Australia has advocated for the introduction of disability-sensitive programing across GFDRR’s portfolio, in line with Australia’s commitment under the Sendai Framework to support inclusive disaster risk management practices. As a result, GFDRR has acted to identify opportunities to improve disability-inclusion in both GFDRR and the World Bank’s disaster risk management investments. DFAT is continuing to advocate for disability-inclusive programing through its ongoing engagement with GFDRR.

2.2 World Humanitarian Summit

In many ways, Sendai can be seen as a precursor to DFAT’s engagement in the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and associated negotiations. The evaluation found strong evidence that DFAT’s advocacy was instrumental in adoption of the *‘Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action’*. The Charter commits signatories to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities, by lifting barriers persons with

disabilities face in accessing relief, protection and recovery support. Signatories also commit to ensuring that people with disabilities participate in the development, planning and implementation of humanitarian programs.

The role played by DFAT in the preliminary negotiations and in the final summit process are a case study of successful advocacy for disability inclusion. The evaluation found that DFAT, through an engaged and active mission in Geneva, supported by the Disability Section of the Development Policy Division and the Humanitarian, NGOs and Partnerships Division in Canberra and the post in New York, had a major impact on negotiations. The key marker for DFAT's advocacy in the WHS process was the Global Consultation in Geneva on 14-16 October 2015. This was the avenue by which DFAT and its partners ramped up the focus on inclusion and where the development of the Charter began. The existence of the 'Development for All 2015-2020' strategy (and its precursor) was important, as it established a track record of engagement on disability inclusion (interviews, DFAT staff and Mission of Finland to the UN Office in Geneva, Switzerland).

In WHS negotiations, collective advocacy for disability inclusion strengthened messages and contributed to successes. DFAT drew on existing coalitions and built new ones during the consultation process leading up to the summit. Throughout the process, there were regular ambassador-level meetings and various side events that helped build a common position among partners. A key bilateral partnership emerged with Finland, and there was also engagement with a strong coalition of DPOs and other organisations working to improve disability inclusion (including Handicap International, CBM, International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) (interviews, DFAT and other organisations). These coalitions helped ensure the voices of DPOs were prominent and influential. DFAT also provided funding to support DPO participation at the WHS. This complemented the support that other donors could provide (interviews, DFAT staff and Mission of Finland).

The disability focus was seen by DFAT in Geneva as an important, 'non-contentious' area of engagement that provided a point of difference to other bilateral players (interviews, DFAT staff). The engagement was strongly supported by the head of mission and the deputy secretary leading the DFAT team at the WHS Global Consultation (interviews, DFAT staff). The Disability Section in Canberra played a valuable role in providing technical assistance to the post when and where it was needed the most (interview, DFAT staff).

The Australian Government played a pivotal role in ensuring that disability inclusion was profiled throughout the World Humanitarian Summit process. We believe its advocacy, often conducted in partnership with the Government of Finland, directly contributed to disability being included as a formal side event at the Global Consultation – a step which launched multi-stakeholder collaboration on the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities — Humanitarian agency

About 80 per cent of the 17 survey respondents who had knowledge of the WHS rated the extent of Australian advocacy as either significant or very significant. About 95 per cent of the 18 survey respondents who assessed Australian advocacy rated it influential or very influential (Figures 4 and 5).

Figure 4: Extent of the Australian advocacy at the World Humanitarian Summit

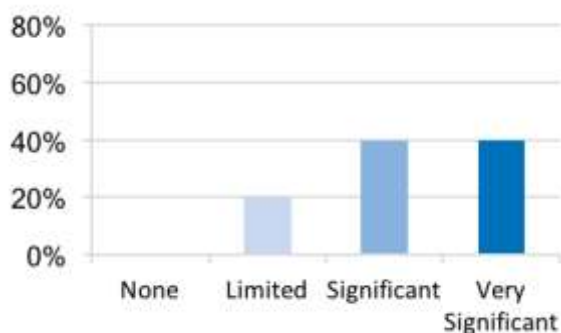
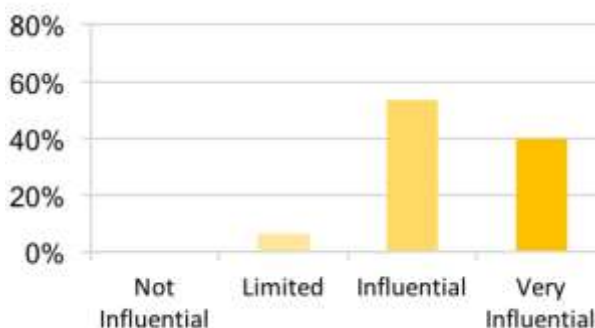


Figure 5: Influence of the Australian advocacy at the World Humanitarian Summit



While the ‘*Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action*’ is a major step forward in terms of disability inclusion, the test will be in how the Charter changes the way in which key actors change their behaviour and action in humanitarian emergencies and responses. Importantly, DFAT has continued its advocacy to operationalise the Charter through support for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, which is developing global guidelines on disability inclusion (interviews, DFAT staff and Mission of Finland).

2.3 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

The adoption by world leaders of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets in September 2015 was the culmination of a process stretching back to the Rio+20 Summit in 2012. The evaluation found strong evidence that DFAT’s advocacy helped to ensure language on disability and inclusion was prominent in the overarching statement, goals and targets.

The evaluation found Australian advocacy for disability inclusion in the 2030 Agenda was successful because of sustained work by DFAT in New York. The New York post built on the long-term partnerships between DFAT and IDA and the Disability Rights Fund (DRF). DFAT helped DPOs to prioritise demands, convened meetings so that DPOs could engage directly with other missions, supported IDA co-facilitation of the Open Working Group on the SDGs with Hungary and 2030 Agenda negotiations with Ireland (interviews, DPO and DFAT).

DFAT also helped build a range of coalitions with other member states in New York to strengthen advocacy for disability inclusion. This included a Like-Minded Group (including the USA, Canada, Brazil, Japan and Scandinavian countries), close working relations with Indonesia, Norway and Peru and a tighter ‘tactics group’ of Canada, New Zealand, Japan and the US (JUSCANZ) (interview, former DFAT staff member). When appropriate, Canberra provided targeted support.

DFAT support for Australian persons with a disability and DPO voices to participate in the development of the 2030 Agenda was influential and demonstrated an understanding and commitment to the principle of ‘Nothing about us without us’ — DPO

Figure 6: Disability inclusion in the Sustainable Development Goals



It is worth noting that much of this advocacy overlapped with Australia's membership on the UN Security Council, which was dominated by major issues such as the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, the UN Afghanistan support mission, the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria and concerns over human rights abuses in North Korea. Despite this crowded agenda, the New York post brought strong senior level focus to advocacy for disability inclusion when needed (interview, DFAT staff).

The Australian Government actively participated in international discussions to design the 2030 Agenda and supported the involvement of all development actors, including civil society organisations, the private sector, philanthropic organisations and academia and DPOs, in particular — UN agency

DFAT worked through political channels at the UN and with other governments to ensure that key measures for inclusion of disability in the SDGs were retained — DPO

Many of those interviewed or surveyed felt that the Australian Government played an important role in the negotiations leading up to the finalisation of the 2030 Agenda to ensure disability and inclusion were captured in the goals of the SDGs. Australian leadership helped achieve the resulting 11 references to disability in the 2030 Agenda, through the Open Working Group and intergovernmental negotiations (interviews, UN agency and DPO; survey responses).

DFAT’s sustained leadership and support until the very last minute of negotiations was critical in achieving a strong disability-inclusive agenda — DPO

Australia has also been supportive of women and girls with disabilities. At the global level, Australia attended, supported and presented at a range of side events with IDA for UN women ambassadors, specifically focusing on women and girls with disabilities.

About 90 per cent of the 24 survey respondents who provided ratings assessed Australia’s advocacy as significant or very significant, and its impact as either influential or very influential (Figures 7 and 8).

Figure 7: Extent of Australian advocacy in the formulation of the 2030 Agenda

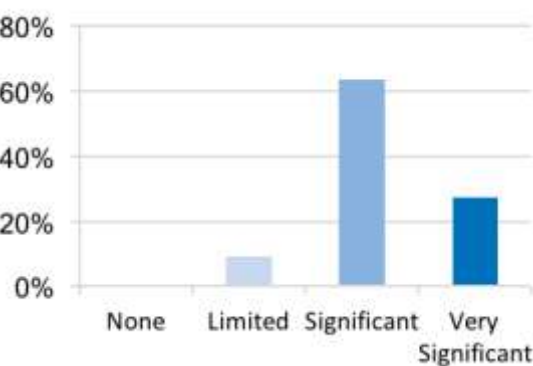
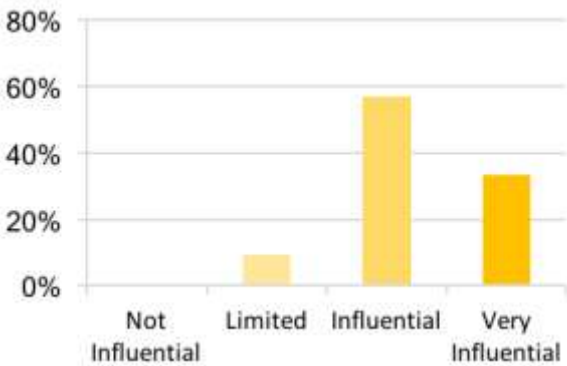


Figure 8: Influence of Australian advocacy in the formulation of the 2030 Agenda



DFAT’s subsequent advocacy in both the 2016 and 2017 Ministerial Declarations of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was considered by key DPOs to have been ‘crucial’. Continued Australian advocacy has focused on the need for disaggregation of data by disability in the indicators that will be used to track progress against the goals and targets.

2.4 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Australia was one of the original signatories to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) when it ratified it in July 2008 and the Optional Protocol in 2009. The Convention is a human rights treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2006 to uphold, protect and promote the rights of people with disabilities. Signatories to the convention meet regularly in a Conference of State Parties (COSP) to consider matters associated with the implementation of the convention.

The evaluation found strong evidence that Australia has played a leading role at COSP meetings. The COSP delegation and process is led by the Australian Department of Social Services. The DFAT post in New York has used a range of approaches to support Australia's advocacy for disability-inclusive development at COSP meetings, including hosting pre-conference receptions, hosting side events and meetings and speaking at key events. For example, the Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) were supported to present its Australia-funded work that identified a high incidence of sexual violence against women with disabilities in crisis settings. Funding was used to support IDA involvement and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (interview, DFAT). Australian representation and willingness to speak at the pre-COSP Civil Society Forum also reinforced Australia's support for a meaningful role for DPOs in the UN system.

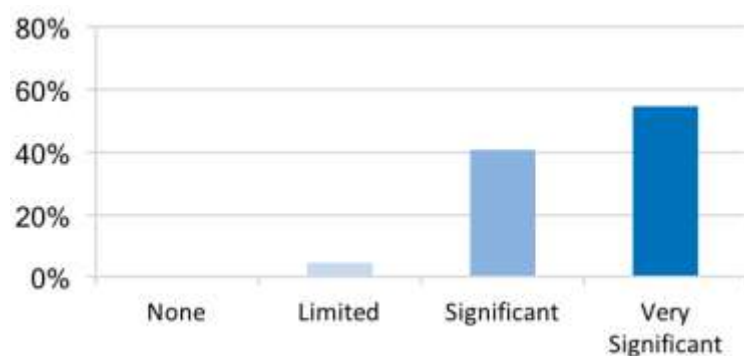
DFAT's advocacy around the CRPD in New York and at COSP meetings employed a broader human rights perspective that sought to mainstream progressive language on disability through all relevant UN resolutions (interview DFAT). This approach benefited from the integration of the Australian foreign affairs and development portfolios.

The Australian government is one of the most effective advocates for implementation and enforcement of the CRPD. This includes both by supporting grants for local advocates and by showing leadership at the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD — Development agency

DFAT uses its International Skills Development Program to support DFAT staff with disabilities to participate in COSP. The inclusion of DFAT officials with disabilities and Australia's disability discrimination commissioner, who is himself a person with a disability in the COSP10 delegation, as well as collaboration with civil society organisations, were in line with the conference's theme 'inclusion and full participation' and were well regarded.

About 95 per cent of the 24 survey respondents who provided ratings assessed Australian efforts to support the CRPD as significant or very significant (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Extent of Australian support for the CRPD



3. BUILDING THE CAPACITY OF DPOS

DFAT has established and draws on a range of strategic partnerships with DPOs and disability-focused organisations to implement its advocacy agenda. This includes work to build the capacity of and support the advocacy of these organisations operating at the global and regional levels (interview, DFAT staff). The evaluation found that through these partnerships, DFAT:

- Helped build the capacity of DPOs to advance their own advocacy agendas, thereby extending its own advocacy reach
- Facilitated DPO engagement in major development processes and brokered DPO partnerships with other development actors, thereby increasing its own influence and effectiveness while giving practical expression to its commitment to work in line with the principle of ‘*Nothing about us without us*’
- Supported DPOs to engage in UN system reform processes
- Strengthened its own understanding of and technical competence in disability-inclusive development; and
- Established a positive reputation as a committed and innovative global leader.

Through DFAT support for DPOs our voices are now heard. We are changing policies, holding governments to account and lobbying for increased funding — DPO

Our partnership with Australia is much more than funding — DPO

Overall, the evaluation found strong evidence that DFAT has supported and effectively built the capacity of DPOs, which has strengthened their advocacy activities. Over 95 per cent of 27 survey respondents who provided ratings felt the level of Australian support for DPOs was either significant or highly significant and more than 80 per cent of 23 respondents felt this support was effective or highly effective (Figures 10 and 11).

Figure 10: Extent of Australian support for DPOs

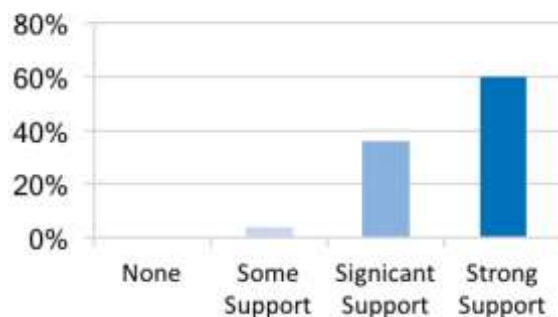
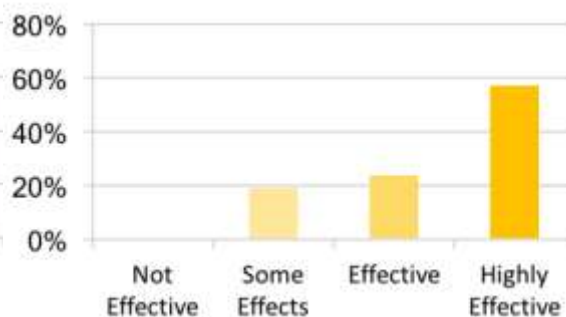


Figure 11: Effectiveness of Australian support for DPOs



DPOs noted the flexibility of funding provided by DFAT increased its effectiveness.

Many donors only support DPOs on a project basis, leaving DPOs with little time and resourcing to support core functions such as organisational capacity and advocacy. DFAT's willingness to provide longer term core funding to DPOs, including regional DPOs, and to support advocacy related initiatives, particularly through the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) has made a significant contribution to DPO capacity and advocacy globally — DPO

Some stakeholders felt that while DFAT support has helped to build the capacity of DPOs in developing countries there are still capacity constraints. Many DPOs in the Indo-Pacific region, especially those representing the most marginalised people with disabilities, need ongoing and long-term support to become effective advocates. Further, capacity building needs to address gender disparities within the organisations and forums. Some partners also expressed the view that DFAT could sensibly expand the range of DPOs it partners with.

Limited leadership opportunities for women with disabilities was openly reflected in the 2016 elections of the UN CRPD Committee, which saw no women elected, leaving one woman in a continuing role alongside 17 men. Attention to gender representation and parity should characterise all work undertaken in disability-inclusive development, including international advocacy efforts — DPO

3.1 International Disability Alliance

Established in 1999 as a network of global and regional DPOs, IDA aims to promote the global implementation of the CRPD, as well as monitor CRPD compliance in the UN system. Part of the IDA mandate is to support DPOs at national and regional levels through training and disseminating resources and information.

IDA is comprised of 11 global and regional DPOs. Its current membership includes Arab Organisation of Persons with Disabilities; Down Syndrome International, European Disability Forum; Inclusion International; International Federation of Hard of Hearing People; Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organisations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families; Pacific Disability Forum, World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf; World Federation of the Deafblind; and World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry.

IDA's advocacy and expertise originate from persons with disabilities, not on behalf of persons with disabilities, making it truly representative of the perspective of persons with disabilities.

At the global level, DFAT's key DPO partner is IDA. DFAT has provided funding support to IDA since 2010. From 2010-2015, a series of specific-purpose grants supported IDA's capacity building work. Subsequently, DFAT has provided IDA with core funding on a three-year cycle. The security of this funding and its flexibility is particularly valued by IDA (interview). DFAT funding has enabled IDA to become a prominent voice that has the access and capacity to influence UN agencies.

IDA has become one of the key strategic partners of most of the UN system along with two or three other international DPOs, and plays a key role in advocacy on the rights of persons with disabilities — UN agency

Six years ago, IDA needed support. IDA is now well established and a key agency but does still have some capacity challenges — UN agency

The evaluation found that by supporting IDA, DFAT has increased its reach, profile and legitimacy. As a result DFAT has easier access to and greater standing in reform-based discussions with UN agencies (Wapling & Brady Review⁴, 19). IDA has provided DFAT with high quality technical capacity on inclusion, which has improved the knowledge of DFAT staff. The effectiveness of DFAT's advocacy for disability-inclusive development stems, to a considerable extent, from its strong partnership with IDA. DFAT's mission in New York works closely with IDA, including through jointly hosting side events at COSP meetings, discussions on implementation of the SDGs, engagement with UN agencies and in ensuring appropriate, disability-inclusive language is considered and included in UN resolutions (interviews, DFAT staff at New York post, see Box 1).

⁴ DFAT Value for Money Assessment- International Disability Alliance, December 2014. Lorraine Wapling and Robin Brady

Box 1: Reforming UN operations

Australian advocacy and support for IDA has been successful in making UN system-wide policy more disability inclusive. In 2012, for example, extensive advocacy work by DFAT and IDA succeeded in getting disability language introduced in the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) for the first time. The QCPR is the mechanism through which the UN General Assembly assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of UN development activities. Findings of the review are used to develop a map that guides the development strategies of each UN agency. Consequently, the QCPR is the primary policy instrument used to define the way the UN development system operates.

Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 December 2012 67/226. Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
requests the United Nations development system to take into account the needs of persons with disabilities in its operational activities for development, including in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, and to address the continuing lack of adequate and reliable information on disability and to strengthen coherence and coordination across the United Nations system.



IDA Chair Colin Allen speaking through international sign at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2017. During the forum, 44 countries reaffirmed their commitment to achieve the landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and presented their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of progress at the national and sub-national levels. IDA representatives worked with other representatives of DPOs to ensure that all VNRs had a reference to persons with disabilities.

Some of the external stakeholders interviewed regarded the partnership between DFAT and IDA as ‘too close’ and one noted that ‘when you see IDA you see DFAT’. Some also felt DFAT should work more broadly to build DPO capacity and increasingly support DPOs that are more representative of developing countries than IDA. Other stakeholders felt the relationship between IDA and DFAT was effective and that IDA’s support for regional DPOs was valuable.

With the capacity of IDA significantly strengthened, DFAT may wish to consider broadening the scope of support of DPOs — UN agency

The evidence obtained in this evaluation suggests that while DFAT might broaden its work to build DPO capacity, it should continue the strong partnership with IDA for the following reasons:

- The partnership benefits both IDA and DFAT
- The partnership strengthens overall advocacy for disability inclusion
- DFAT support has built the capacity of IDA so that it is now an effective advocate for compliance with the CRPD within the UN system. Such advocacy continues to be needed and no other DPO has an equivalent capacity to do this work
- DFAT’s first project grant (2010-2011) to IDA represented about 75 per cent of IDA’s total funding. Although DFAT’s annual funding to IDA has increased, the proportion of IDA funding that is provided by DFAT has decreased and is projected to be about 22 per cent in 2018 (calculated from figures supplied by IDA). In recent years, other bilateral agencies, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID), have provided more funding than DFAT. This indicates that IDA has been and continues to be effective in leveraging funding from a range of funding partners and therefore is not dependent on DFAT (interviews, DFAT staff, DPOs and UN agencies; survey; Wapling & Brady 2014⁵).

3.2 Disability Rights Advocacy Fund

The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF) is a disability organisation, as opposed to a DPO. It provides grants to country level DPOs to participate in and influence CRPD ratification and implementation efforts, as well as supporting broader efforts to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in regional and cross-movement levels (see Box 2). An evaluation of the Disability Rights Fund (DRF, the ‘parent’ body for the DRAF), partly supported by DFAT found:

DRF’s work supports Australia’s efforts to include and benefit people with disability... By empowering DPOs, the DRF/DRAF contribute to the Australian aid program’s priority investments by: i) empowering women with disabilities to overcome disadvantage and discrimination; ii) contributing to effective humanitarian assistance and disaster risk reduction by supporting the engagement of people with disabilities in planning efforts to ensure that

⁵ DFAT Value for Money Assessment- International Disability Alliance, December 2014. Lorraine Wapling and Robin Brady

information, transport and shelters are accessible to all; iii) promoting the ratification and implementation of human rights treaties, including supporting legislative changes to ensure that infrastructure, education and health services are accessible to people with disabilities; and iv) delivering practical initiatives to promote human rights, including through grassroots activities in vulnerable communities. — Universal Learning Evaluation, pp 25-26.

The evaluation found that the work done by DRAF complements the work being done by IDA by focusing on country-level implementation (see Box 2). DRAF maintains that the key aspects of its partnership with DFAT that enables its work are the consistent and ongoing buy-in of DFAT staff, and the consistency and the flexibility of its funding over time (interview, DRF). DFAT support for DRAF allowed it to extend its funding coverage to the Pacific and Indonesia, which are priority areas for Australia (interview, DRF).

3.3 Pacific Disability Forum

The Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) is the key regional DPO in the Pacific. It comprises 31 full member organisations across all Pacific countries and territories, with a further 23 associate members. Full members are DPOs, where the majority of the board members of each organisation must have a disability. Associate members are Pacific-based organisations that are concerned with disability but are not necessarily governed by a board with a majority of persons with disabilities.

DFAT has been the main source of financial support for the PDF since 2009, following NZAID support from 2005-2008. PDF provides leadership, serves as the regional focal point on disability issues in the Pacific and supports capacity building of various national DPOs, donor and development partners as well as civil society and the private sector. DFAT support for PDF has brought disability, DPOs and people with disabilities closer to the centre of policy discussion and action in the Pacific and had the effect of attracting other donor funding and support (interview, PDF).

Support for PDF has seen the coverage and capacity of DPOs in the Pacific grow. In 2010, there were five DPOs, now there are 19, with at least one in each Pacific country and territory. Pacific DPOs are advocating for people with disabilities in their countries to have the rights due to them through the CRPD (interview, PDF).

In November 2015, DFAT commissioned an independent evaluation of PDF, which found:

PDF has been highly effective and its programs have made a significant contribution to improving the situation of people with disability and disability-inclusive development in the Pacific. There have been outcomes evident in all of its key result areas. PDF support—financial, training and capacity building and coordination of DPOs at a regional level—has resulted in increased DPO capacity, though capacity is uneven. As a result, DPOs are now more able to engage with and influence government and others. PDF has been extremely effective at developing and maintaining successful relationships and partnerships at all levels and through strategic long-term leadership, has positioned itself at the centre of a network of DPOs, governments, regional bodies, development partners and others. It has successfully used these relationships to influence and advocate for its disability-inclusive agenda in national, regional and international fora in collaboration with its partners. — Regional Support for Disability Inclusion in the Pacific, p 10

Box 2: Support for implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Indonesia's first CRPD-compliant disability rights law, the 2016 Law on Persons with Disabilities, was passed on 17 March 2016, four years after ratification of the CRPD. In 2011, the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF) triggered the establishment of POKJA Disabilitas, a national coalition of organisations in the Indonesian disability movement and two civil society organisations with legal expertise. Through DRAF, Australia has provided the funding for the coalition. The coalition effectively advocated for ratification of the CRPD, initiated drafting of the act, and led all advocacy activities towards its passage (Figure 12). The contribution that POKJA has made has been recognised by the Indonesian Government.

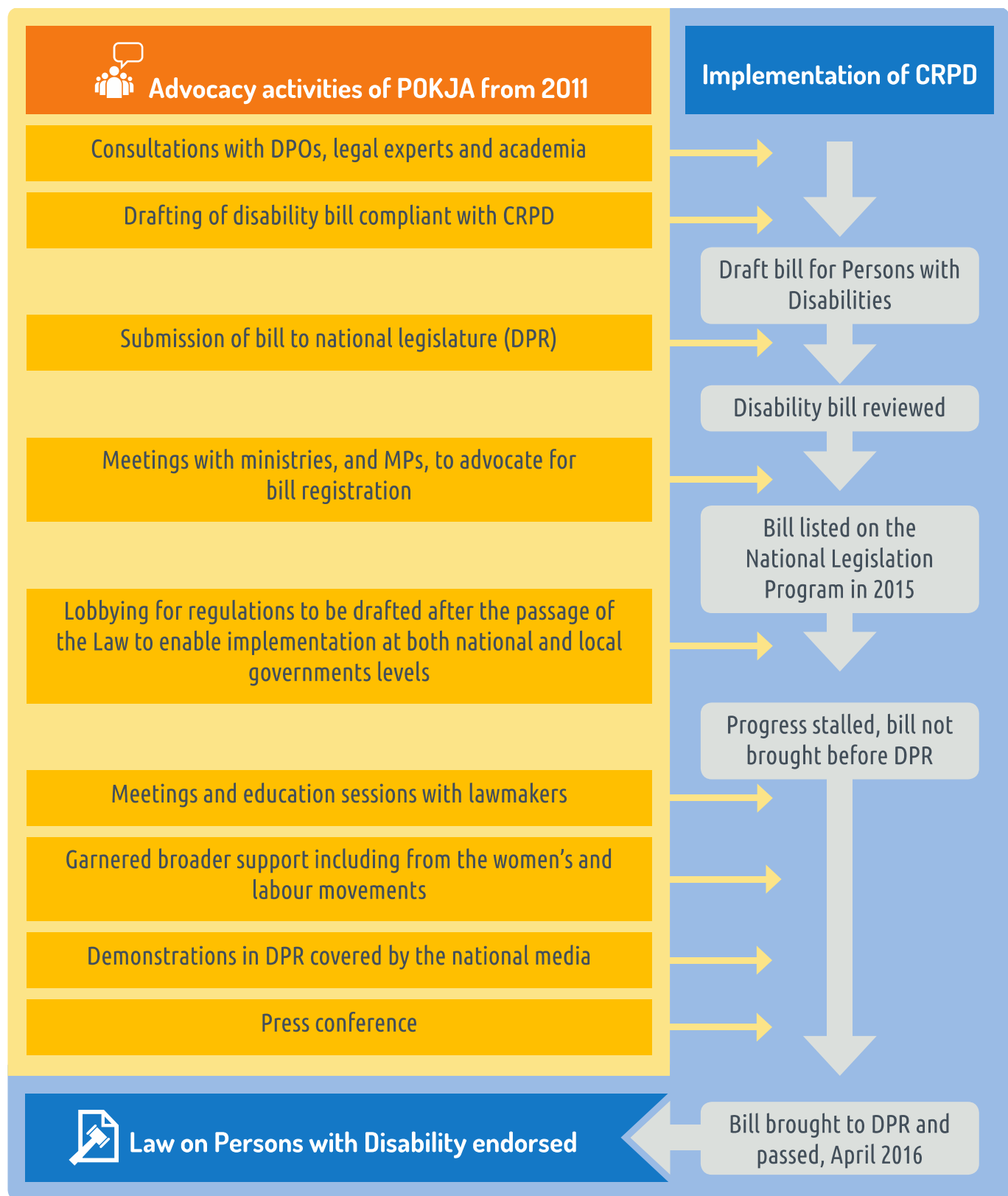
POKJA has built the momentum and credibility needed to enable it to continue and expand its advocacy. The coalition has successfully advocated for the establishment of the National Commission on Disability, an independent body that will ensure implementation of the Law and fulfill Article 33 of the CRPD. A draft Presidential Decree on the commission has been reviewed by the government and is awaiting signature of the president. POKJA is advocating for regulations and budget to support implementation of the Law. Members of the coalition are now also working on issues not connected to the projects funded by DRAF. For example, holding government accountable by holding a press conference on the lack of job openings for persons with disabilities in government.

Thanks to the consistent funding for the past five years from the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund... the movement has grown and we've had some considerable wins. The support raised our dignity — especially in front of the government. Now they consider us professionals and equals and treat us as partners — Maulani Rotinsulu, Chair of the Indonesian Association of Women with Disabilities



The photo shows Maulani Rotinsulu (left) one of the leaders of POKJA receiving an award from the Ministry of Social Affairs on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December 2016. The award recognised her role in supporting major legislative reform needed for the Law on Persons with Disabilities. Photo: Disability Rights Fund.

Figure 12: Advocacy work undertaken by POKJA, a national coalition of organisations in the Indonesian disability movement, which has contributed to the 2016 Law on Persons with Disability



4. SUPPORTING AND WORKING IN COALITIONS

DFAT has worked with others to build collective advocacy for disability-inclusive development. Approximately 85 per cent of the 31 survey respondents who provided a rating felt DFAT's support for coalitions was significant or highly significant, with about 80 per cent of 30 survey respondents rating support to build coalitions as effective or highly effective (Figures 13 and 14).

Figure 13: Extent to which Australia has built coalitions

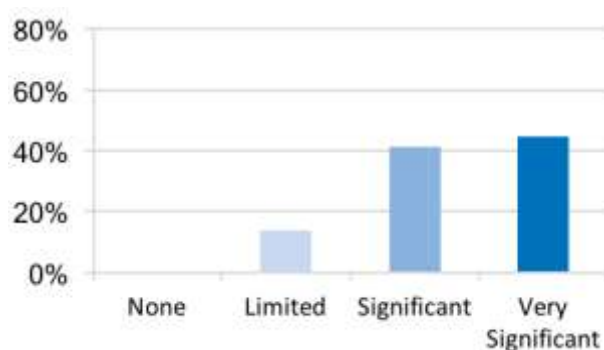
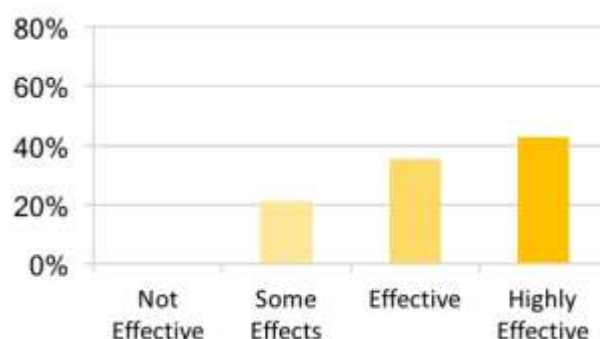


Figure 14: Effectiveness of Australian support for coalitions



Australian Government support has been instrumental in building coalitions of diverse stakeholders to strengthen international and regional advocacy on disability-inclusive humanitarian action — Humanitarian agency

4.1 Working with other bilateral donors

DFAT has helped build and been part of a diverse range of coalitions with other countries (Figure 15). The effectiveness of these coalitions was demonstrated at the World Humanitarian Summit where Australia drew on existing partnerships, such as the JUSCANZ grouping, and developed new ones, including with Finland.

DFAT genuinely cares about disability. It's not just a matter of fulfilling requirements. DFAT is very creative in finding ways to motivate others — DPO

Figure 15: Australia has worked collaboratively with many countries (shown on the map and listed) in advocating for disability inclusion. Some examples of collaborative advocacy work are described.



With Thailand, organised Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on a Disability Inclusive Development Agenda



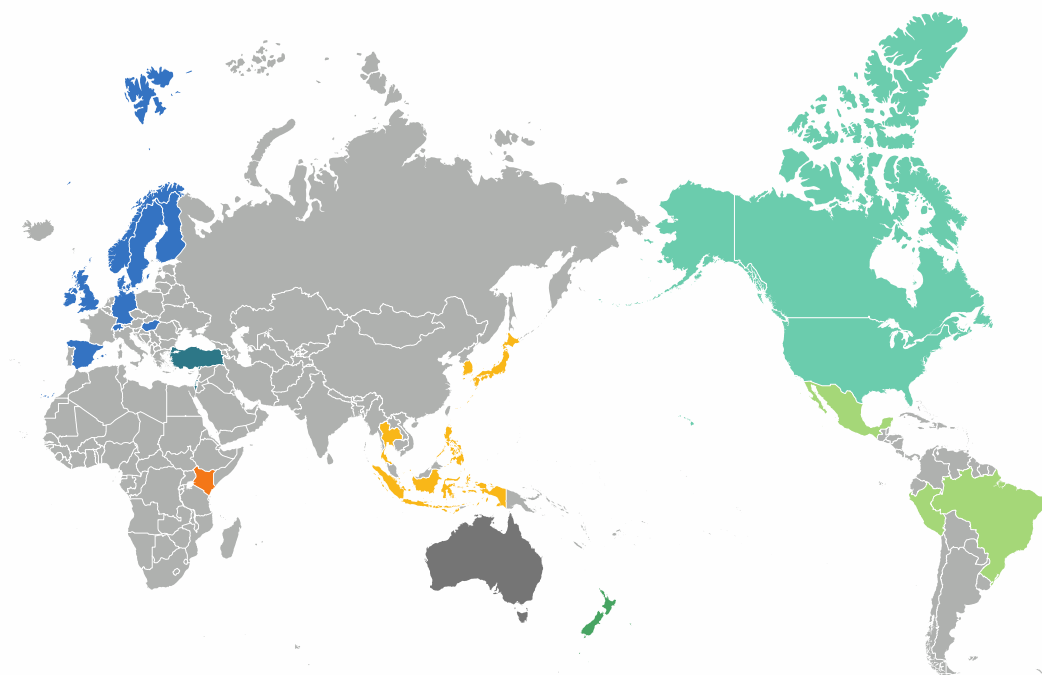
With Finland, Sweden and Thailand drove the Charter for Disability Inclusion at the WHS



with Indonesia, Norway and Peru pushed the need for disability inclusive disaster risk reduction



With New Zealand, worked to get disability language in the UN General Assembly's QCPR



EUROPE Switzerland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, UK, Ireland, Hungary, Spain, Germany, Liechtenstein, Iceland
MIDDLE EAST Israel, Turkey **NORTH AMERICA** Canada, USA **SOUTH AMERICA** Antigua and Barbuda, Mexico, Peru, Brazil
AUSTRALASIA New Zealand **ASIA** Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Philippines, South Korea **AFRICA** Kenya



With Sweden and others in the Group of Friends (NZ, Mexico, Finland, Republic of Korea) coordinated cross-regional lobbying on matters under discussion at the UN



With Antigua and Barbuda, established a position for a person with disability in the Office of the President of the UN General



With US and other JUSCANZ countries (Japan, Canada, NZ, Israel, Iceland Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein), advocated for disability inclusion in the work of the UN Social, Humanitarian Cultural Affairs Committee



With the UK and other countries in the GLAD Network (Sweden and Finland), shared expertise, coordinated actions, and raised the profile of disability



With Mexico and others in MIKTA (Indonesia, Republic of Korea and Turkey) held an annual reception for International Day of Persons with Disabilities and issued joint statements at COSP

4.2 Global Action on Disability

The Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Network aims to support bilateral and multilateral donors, organisations, the private sector and foundations to collaborate with DPOs and partner governments, to enhance the inclusion of people with disabilities in international development and humanitarian action.

In line with its commitment to build and strengthen global advocacy approaches, Australia was a founding member of GLAD at its inaugural meeting in London in December 2015, hosted by DFID and IDA. The inaugural meeting was attended by 10 bilateral donors, three multilateral organisations, seven foundations and seven private sector enterprises together with civil society representatives.

Since GLAD was established, DFAT has been a co-chair with IDA and provided funding for secretariat support. External stakeholders consistently reported that through this role DFAT helped to optimise GLAD's operation and build its effectiveness. Ministerial level involvement from Australia was identified by IDA as an important marker of DFAT's support.



Senator the Hon Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, addressing the GLAD meeting in Berlin in 2016. Active and prolonged engagement by the Minister at the meeting was highly regarded and seen as confirmation of ongoing political commitment to maintaining Australia's international leadership in disability inclusion. Photo: DFAT

Many of those interviewed feel that GLAD has an important consultation function (interview, UN agencies). The alliance is however still in its formative stage (interview, IDA) so its effectiveness has not been established (interviews, UN agencies and DPO). The growing membership of GLAD suggests it is serving a useful function.

DFAT's role as co-chair has utilised a large proportion of the human resources of the Disability Section that are dedicated to advocacy work. DFAT will hand over this role in 2018 which will free up time of staff to undertake other advocacy work.

DFAT has been effective in leading this group to facilitate cooperation and knowledge sharing among a wide range of international development actors and has sought to use the first year of the network to reach a point of sustainability before passing to the new co-chair — Bilateral donor

4.3 Support for other advocates

The Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) works to improve the lives and protect the rights of women, children and youth displaced by crisis and conflict. The Australian Government has supported WRC since 2011 to research the needs of displaced women and girls with disabilities, identify solutions, and advocate for changes in policies and programs.

The evaluation found that activities undertaken by WRC and partners have:

- Documented positive practices for the protection and empowerment of displaced women and girls with disabilities in humanitarian settings through research, piloting and evaluation
- Strengthened the capacity and leadership of organisations of women with disabilities in humanitarian action through training and networking opportunities
- Worked with networks of women with disabilities from crisis-affected countries to get the issues of women and girls with disabilities reflected in policies, programs and practice at national levels
- Improved accountability for inclusion of displaced women and girls with disabilities.
- Helped make policies global commitments global practice guidelines more inclusive
- Led to changes in practices. For example, humanitarian organisations working on gender-based violence are recognising women with disabilities and recruiting them as staff and volunteers in their programs
- Started to improve the lives of women and girls with disabilities through protection and empowerment programs that build self-esteem, and their power and status in communities.

5. IMPROVING DISABILITY DATA

CRPD Article 31 requires states parties to collect appropriate information, including appropriately disaggregated statistical and research data, to enable the formulation and implementation of policies that give effect to the Treaty. The SDGs also require indicators to be disaggregated by disability, where relevant. The World Report on Disability (2011) and UNICEF's State of the World's Children Report (2013) have both called for standardisation of disability statistics, which would allow for international comparison and the monitoring of progress on disability policies, including the implementation of the CRPD.

Strengthening data collection on disability is a major focus of the *'Development for All'* strategy. DFAT has supported improved collection of data on disability across a broad range of areas, including in humanitarian response, disaggregation of SDG targets, education and country level collection. All of those interviewed felt that DFAT was a leading proponent for better disability data across a range of areas (interviews).

A significant aspect of DFAT's support has been its willingness to provide both intellectual input as well as financial support for data improvement. The following projects are underway:

- DFAT is supporting the Washington Group, formed by the UN Statistical Commission in 2001, to disseminate tools to collect disability data and provide technical assistance to support their uptake and use (\$2.8 million, 2015-2018)
- DFAT is supporting UNICEF to partner with the Washington Group to complete a set of survey questions that countries can insert into their existing national data collection processes (such as censuses) to provide internationally comparable data on children with disabilities (\$1.2 million, 2014-2017)
- DFAT is providing further support to UNICEF through the second phase of the Rights, Education and Protection project, which focuses, in part, on the lack of research, evidence and data on children with disabilities in Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific (\$4.5 million, 2015-2019, part of this funding relates to data collection)
- DFAT support to the Western Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organisation includes a focus on strengthening data collection about people with disability in the Pacific
- DFAT is supporting a project in the Statistics Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) that aims to enhance the capacity of national statistical offices in developing countries to produce and disseminate good quality and fit-for-purpose statistics on disability (\$5 million, 2015-2019).

There is a consensus that the data tools developed by the Washington Group, particularly the Short Set of Disability Questions, are well suited to strengthen the collection, dissemination and use of disability statistics and data. They can be incorporated into census modules and have already been successfully used in country censuses in Timor Leste, Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati and Fiji.

As part of a specific project funded by DFAT, the Statistics Division (UNSD) of UNDESA is revisiting and reviewing the work undertaken by the Washington Group over the past decade. Work of the UNSD has been slower to progress than expected and the Division has not aligned with the consensus view of the value of the Washington Group Questions. This has stalled overall progress in building better disability data. The UNSD activity has been rated as underperforming in DFAT's performance management system and has been placed under a process of enhanced monitoring.

In the course of this evaluation, all the main agencies with an interest in disability data expressed frustration with the failure of the UNSD to support use of the Washington Group Questions and work collaboratively with the Washington Group. At COSP10, 25 state parties presented a joint statement calling on UNSD to recommend the use of the Washington Group questions to national statistic offices and the Inter-Agency Group on the Sustainable Development Goals. Several countries, including Australia, have made direct representations to the UNSD about its approach.

Some of those interviewed understood why DFAT had funded the UNSD but others could not (interviews, UN agencies and DPOs). By supporting UNSD, DFAT has stalled progress in generating disability data. This detracts from DFAT's acknowledged role as a leading proponent of the development of methodologies to improve disability data.

6. INFLUENCING PARTNER AGENCIES

The evaluation found that DFAT's success in using policy dialogue and funding to help make the policies of partner agencies more disability-inclusive was strong but variable. In the case of UN agencies, there is strong evidence that DFAT's engagement was important in driving transformation in agencies' disability-inclusive practices. Most UN agencies interviewed were appreciative of DFAT's advocacy, as it had increased their understanding of the importance of disability inclusion, and helped them to make their work more disability-inclusive. The same level of success was not evident in DFAT's engagement with the multilateral development banks and with global programs in education and health.

6.1 UN agencies

Interviews with UN agencies confirmed that Australia, through DFAT, has a good understanding of how to change the way in which UN partner agencies see inclusion. This flows from the framework by which DFAT partnerships with UN agencies are structured. Elements of the framework include:

- Strategic partnership agreements with major agencies that set out the priorities of the partnership, including the focus on inclusion, and provided a sound basis for engagement
- A process of annual high-level consultations (joint with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN Women) that provided the primary avenue for advocating Australian interests
- Engagement at executive board meetings throughout the year and through side events
- Strong and consistent messaging about the Australian expectation that inclusion be addressed in agencies' strategic planning processes and documents. This was very timely, given the systems-wide process of strategic planning being undertaken to bring UN operations in line with the SDGs
- Targeted funding support to facilitate and support change in their operations.

The Disability Section in Canberra and DFAT's Post in New York have been very adept at using these entry points to strongly and consistently advocate for the adoption of inclusive policies and operations by UN agencies.

Australia is always the strongest voice pushing for disability inclusion on the executive board — UN agency

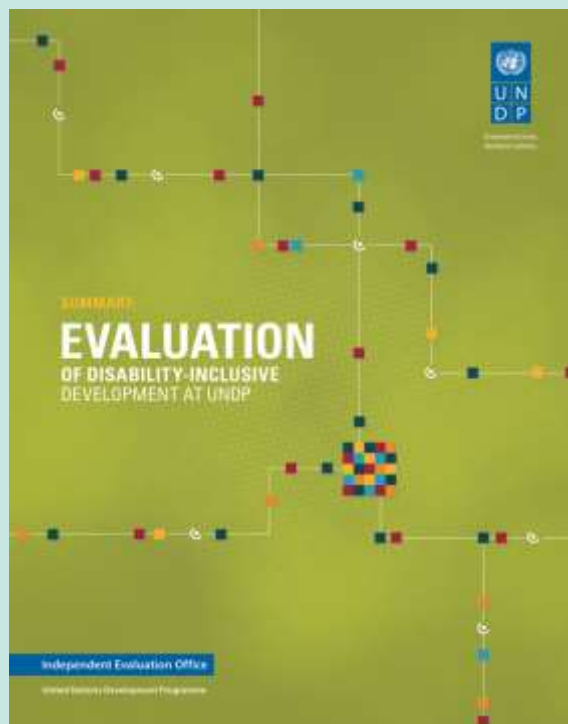
DFAT has had a particularly strong focus on the strategic planning process, where Australia is seeking a coherent UN approach to implementation and follow up to the 2030 Agenda. A key element was DFAT's call for UN agencies to systematically consider how to make disability-inclusive development the norm across all programs and at all levels. The evaluation found strong evidence that Australian advocacy has influenced the policies that will influence funding

commitments of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women. The updated strategic plans of all of these agencies will have an explicit focus on disability inclusion.

We see Australia pushing hard and effectively in the context of governance structures for UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, the World Food Program (including at country strategy level) and the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). We admire this work and regard it as significant and influential in so far as Australia is breaking ground and organisations are striving to respond — Bilateral donor

Support for the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) illustrates how Australia has used early and targeted funding to promote a greater focus on inclusion in UN agencies. UNPRPD was established as there was no mechanism at the country level through which the actions of UN agencies and others could be coordinated to better support implementation of the CRPD. The UNPRPD brings together UN entities, governments, DPOs and civil society organisations. DFAT was described as the ‘first donor and first champion’ of the UNPRPD (interview, UN agency) and has been key in terms of both financing and political support (Figure 16). DFAT has provided \$6.9 million to UNPRPD and further support is under consideration. In the Pacific, UNPRPD is transforming UN operations by getting UN agencies to talk to each and directly engage with DPOs (interview, DPO).

DFAT has also used strategic and targeted funding to advance its advocacy agenda in other settings. An example of this is DFAT support for an independent evaluation of disability inclusion in the operations of UNDP, which led to disability-inclusive development being identified as a programming and policy priority within UNDP (Box 3). Another example was the targeted funding for the establishment of a disability section within UNICEF. This section has enabled UNICEF to make significant progress in mainstreaming disability.

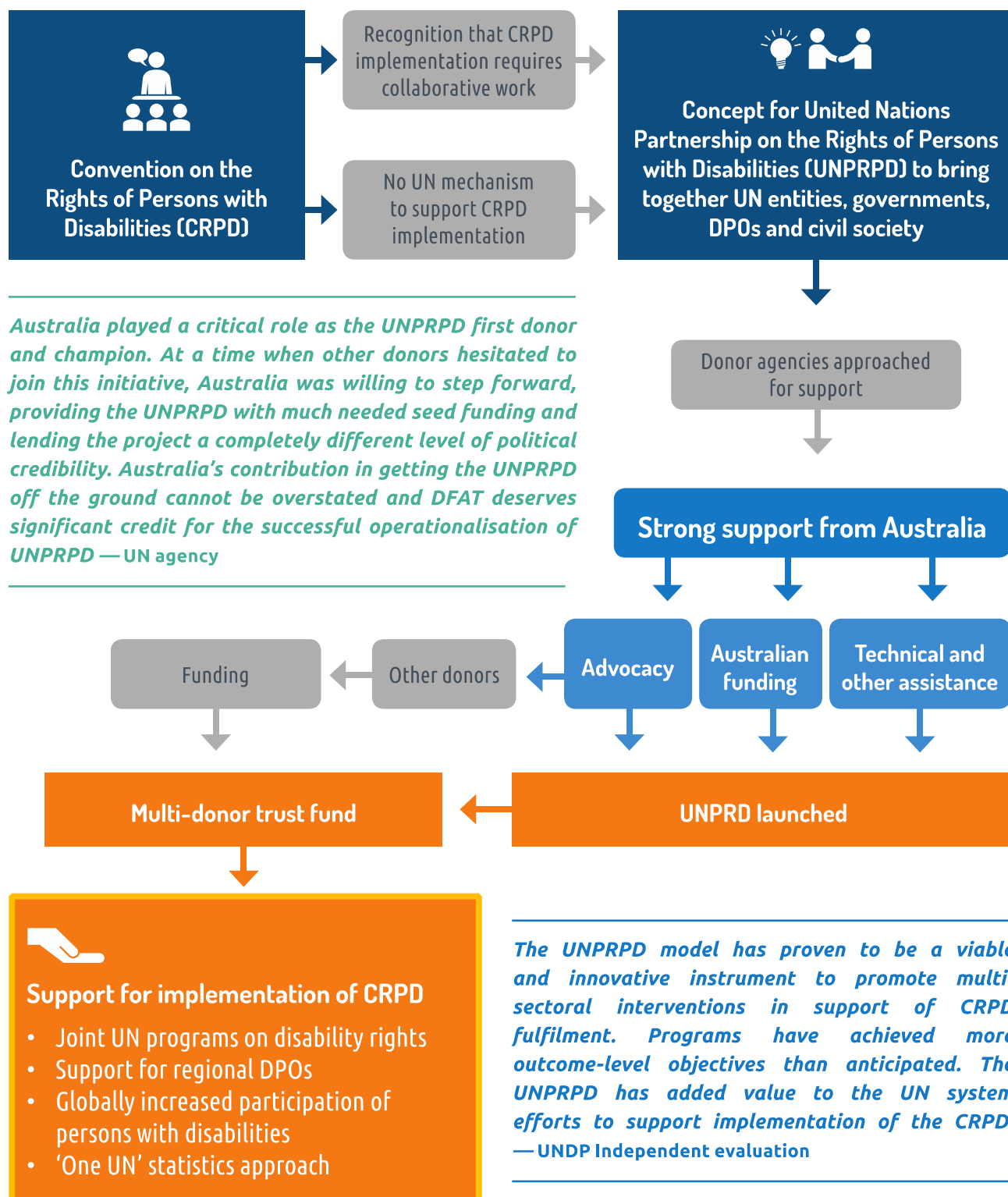


Box 3: Targeted funding to bring about policy changes needed to reform development practices

Australia advocated for an independent corporate evaluation of UNDP’s disability inclusive development work from 2008-2016, when the CRPD was in force. Supplementary funding provided by DFAT increased the reach of the evaluation. This evaluation found that while the agency was supporting some important work on disability, UNDP global programs were not sufficiently disability inclusive. The evaluation made recommendations to improve disability-inclusion and has played a critical role in getting senior level commitment to improve disability inclusion in UNDP. Follow-up actions outlined by UNDP in the management response are scheduled to be introduced within two years.

Without Australia, there would not have been an evaluation and UNDP would have continued working as it was. The evaluation has been very influential — UNDP

Figure 16: Australia has shown leadership by being the first bilateral donor to support and commit funding to new initiatives designed to address key needs. Support from Australia has been credited with establishing the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD), which is coordinating the work of UN agencies at the country level to support implementation of the CRPD.



6.2 Multilateral development banks

Compared to the UN system, traction from DFAT's advocacy for disability inclusion with the World Bank and Asian Development Bank is harder to determine. Earlier strong engagement with the World Bank, at least at headquarters level, has fallen away (interview, World Bank). In Washington, there was some sporadic engagement, including during the 2017 Spring Meetings, but advocacy for inclusion was not assessed as being in the top three to four priorities for DFAT's engagement with the World Bank (interview, DFAT staff). This has been balanced to a degree by the ongoing support DFAT is providing to the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and its advocacy to see inclusion reflected in the Bank's DRR work.

Engagement with the ADB on disability inclusion appears to have been even less of a priority. Disability inclusion is part of the formal shared objectives of the *Partnership Framework on Development between the Asian Development Bank and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 2011-2020*. DFAT has also raised inclusion as part of the High-Level Consultations with the ADB in 2014, 2015 and 2016, and ADB has now joined GLAD. Despite this, disability inclusion has not been a major part of the relationship between DFAT and the Bank.

While this evaluation did not look at cooperation between DFAT and the multilateral development banks (MDBs) at a country level, policy advocacy at an institutional level is not on the same par or at the same tempo as with the UN and humanitarian systems. While DFAT is not the lead agency in terms of broader engagement with the MDBs, it has a similar degree of access to the MDBs as it does with the UN agencies in New York. Australia has strong board representation in both the World Bank and ADB and its views carry weight with them. More frequent and more consistent advocacy for disability inclusion could deliver significant outcomes for people with disabilities given the scale of their programs

6.3 Global education and health programs

DFAT's education strategy, *Strategy for Australia's aid investments in education 2015-2020*, has a strong focus on disability inclusion. Australia was a key earlier funder of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), a multi-stakeholder partnership and funding platform that aims to strengthen education systems in developing countries to increase the number of children who are in school and learning. There is clear potential for GPE to improve how education systems cater for people with disabilities.

At a headquarters level, GPE is under-resourced in terms of technical capacity around inclusion, relying exclusively on temporary staffing provided by the Kennedy Foundation. The Foundation recognised the need to make the partnership more disability-inclusive and funded a fellowship to provide disability expertise. Australia has been a strong supporter of GPE, and is actively engaged on its board and in policy processes. To date, this engagement has been mainly directed to governance and financing issues associated with establishment of the GPE, with limited advocacy for disability inclusion.

DFAT was the second founding partner, after World Vision, in the USAID All Children Reading Challenge 2011-2017, which is part of USAID's portfolio of Grand Challenges. These challenges are based on the principles of the transformative effects of science and technology and that engaging broadly is critical to instigating breakthroughs. DFAT's advocacy helped ensure disability was one of the three focal areas of the All Children Reading Challenge (interview, bilateral donor and NGO).

The evaluation found that disability was not regarded as a feature of DFAT's overall engagement with global partners engaged in health (interviews, DFAT staff). While DFAT has engaged with the UNFPA to ensure that all policy

development and programming is disability inclusive, it appears the priority placed on disability inclusion has not been sufficiently communicated or understood, such that the evaluation found there to be a risk of missed opportunity. Staff at post suggested that this reflected the fact that disability inclusion was not sufficiently specified in DFAT's previous or current *Health for Development Strategy 2015*.

DFAT has had a longer engagement with WHO around disability but the results of this have been variable. An initial funding agreement valued at \$3.9 million was signed with WHO headquarters for the 2011-2014 period, called '*Enhancing the quality of life for persons with disabilities*'. This was extended until 2015 with a further \$500,000. Funding was discontinued after 2015 because of slow progress in implementation. Following protracted discussions with WHO staff, DFAT resumed funding WHO for a defined set of activities in the Pacific.

DFAT also provides small scale support to WHO for work on psychosocial disability in the Pacific. Psychosocial disability is an area that often goes unfunded and Australia's willingness to support this work is innovative and was commended by many stakeholders (interviews, UN agency, other organisations and DPOs). This support aims to increase psychosocial disability services in the Pacific through training provided in conjunction with PDF and CBM (interview, UN agency and DFAT staff).

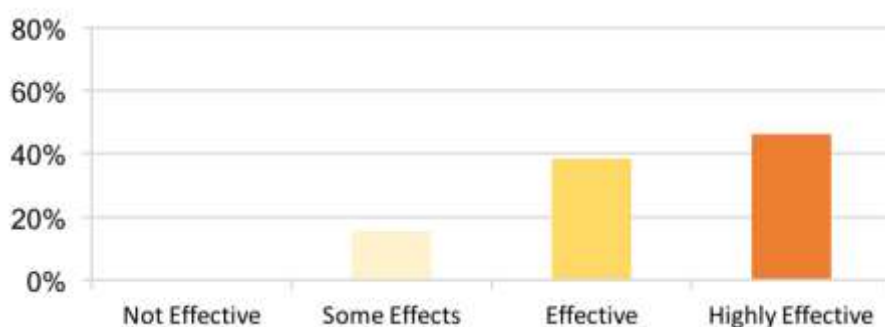
7. OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF DFAT'S INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

7.1 Effectiveness

Advocacy is often more effective when it is multifaceted and when there are multiple advocates, so it can be difficult to attribute outcomes to specific actions of a particular advocate. Although DFAT has been one among many advocates for disability inclusion, the evaluation found that DFAT has often been the first, only or largest funder for key initiatives. In many instances, Australia has been the only or strongest advocate. Therefore, the evaluation was able to assess the contribution made by DFAT's advocacy. DFAT has employed a range of advocacy measures that, while individually effective and influential in their own right, were also interdependent and mutually supportive. Consequently, it is difficult to assess which of DFAT's advocacy measures have been the most effective.

DFAT has not been universally effective across its advocacy activities but, on balance, this evaluation has identified strong evidence that overall, DFAT's advocacy has been effective. This is a view supported by many stakeholders, with about 85 per cent of 28 survey respondents who provided ratings considering that overall, Australia's advocacy was effective or highly effective (Figure 17).

Figure 17: Overall effectiveness of Australian advocacy



Outcomes achieved

The evaluation found strong evidence that DFAT's advocacy and targeted funding made a significant contribution to the successful achievement of **important short-term outcomes** (Table 3). It helped build the capacity of DPOs so they were empowered to advance their own advocacy agendas. DFAT helped 'broker' partnerships like GLAD and established coalitions with other bilateral players and donor agencies. Consistent and strong support for improved data collection on disability, including funding to the Washington Group, has supported the development of the tools needed to provide the basis of systems to collect disability data.

These short-term outcomes have in turn contributed to achieving **significant intermediate outcomes** (Table 3). DFAT has facilitated DPO engagement in major development policy process, including the World Humanitarian Summit, Sendai and the 2030 Agenda. People with disabilities and their organisations increasingly have a voice and say in decisions and processes that directly affect their lives. However, there remains room for improvement, especially in increasing the voice of DPOs, including women, from developing countries.

Australian advocacy has played a significant role in making the policies of some of Australia’s development partners more inclusive and it has contributed to ensuring that global policies and the international architecture around development and humanitarian action are more inclusive. On disability data, the Washington Group Questions are already in use and proving successful in some countries but recent issues with the UNSD appears to be holding back further progress. The evaluation found only limited evidence that development practices of DFAT’s development partners have become more inclusive, but this is not unexpected given the timing of the shift from negotiating new global frameworks and policies to their implementation.

DFAT’s advocacy has made us realise that we have not done enough on disability — UN agency

It remains to be seen whether intermediate outcomes will translate into the **high-level outcome** of improvements in the quality of life for people with disabilities. This will clearly take time but continued advocacy and leadership by Australia will help to push development partners to work to operationalise inclusive development policies and meet the commitments they have made.

Table 3: The extent to which Australian advocacy has achieved a range of outcomes and the relative importance of the Australian contribution to improvement in disability-inclusive development

Outcomes	Description	Extent of improvements in outcomes	Significance of Australian contribution	Strength of evidence
Short term	Greater DPO capacity	High	High	Strong
	Stronger DPO advocacy	High	High	Strong
	Coalitions built	High	High	Strong
	Tools to collect disability data	Medium	High	Strong
Intermediate	People with disability have voice	Medium	High	Strong
	Improved disability data	Medium	Medium	Strong
	Global and partner development policies more disability-inclusive	Medium	High	Strong
	Development partner practices more disability-inclusive	Limited	Medium	Adequate
High level	Improved quality of life for people with disabilities	Limited	Limited	Weak

Factors that have increased effectiveness

DFAT's advocacy has been particularly effective in recent global policy processes (such as the WHS and the 2030 Agenda), support for capacity building of DPOs, and in supporting and advocating for disability inclusion in UN agencies. The following are some of the key reasons underpinning the effectiveness of that advocacy (Figure 18):

- Australian credibility as an advocate for disability inclusion.
- The Disability Section in the Development Policy Division in Canberra used limited staff and financial resources strategically to achieve strong outcomes. It chose the right organisations to partner with and together they covered the main areas where advocacy was needed

DFAT's advocacy has worked because it has targeted the strategic organisations and processes with timely funding. DFAT selected a strategic group of organisations to influence disability-inclusive development in the international arena. They were able to do so in a timely fashion and to align their strategy of funding according to the needs of different international processes — DPO

- Use of different advocacy approaches that worked synergistically, so overall outcomes were greater than the sum of the parts
- Working in partnership with DPOs increased impact
- DFAT was considered an open and accommodating partner. Advocacy was more effective when DFAT staff engaged more fully with partner organisations, DPOs and other agencies. Staff of the Disability Section have developed productive working relationships with partners. Geneva and New York posts have a staff member whose work includes a focus on disability and this facilitated strong sustained engagement with partners
- Sustained advocacy

Australia's sustained advocacy has created the momentum for change — UN Agency

- DFAT used targeted and modest funding to increase the impact of its advocacy

The Disability Section has increased the effectiveness of Australian advocacy by being innovative. For example, funding for the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities and work on data with UN agencies — UN agency

- DFAT has been strategic and adept in building coalitions to support collective advocacy. Perhaps the clearest example of this relates to the WHS, where DFAT's Geneva post drew on existing relationships and reached out to new partners in a cooperative and open manner that allowed different partners to bring different strengths to the work (interview, Finland and DFAT staff)
- DFAT staff have shown strong commitment. The Disability Section has been active and is well respected by a broad range of organisations. The strong commitment and dynamism of posts in Geneva and New York was also important

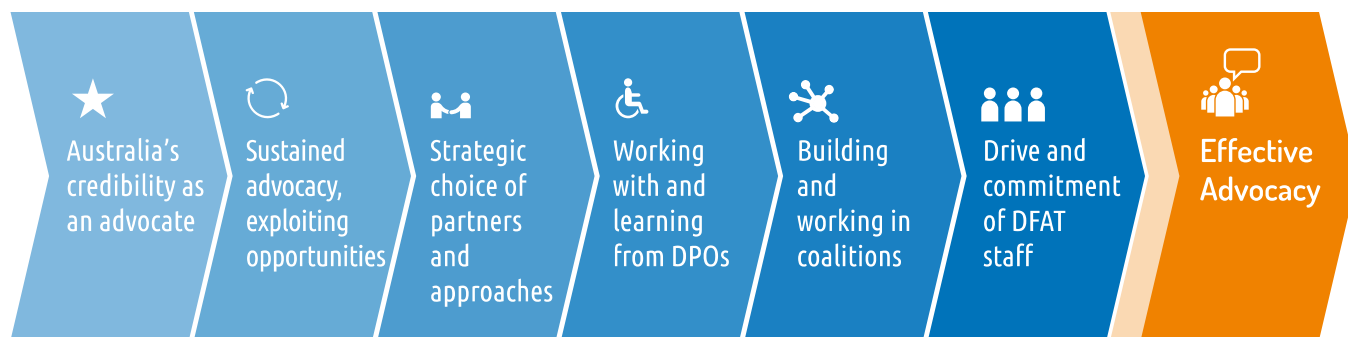
DFAT has been highly effective in advocating for disability-inclusive development because of the technical capacities and knowledge, as well as commitment of DFAT staff, to disability rights and international processes. DFAT staff have over the years demonstrated significant knowledge of disability rights and disability-inclusive development— DPO

- The Disability Section provided strong support to posts in Geneva and New York. DFAT has used its ongoing partnership with CBM Australia to provide technical support and advice to staff



The Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, launched the *'Development for All 2015-2020: Strategy for strengthening disability-inclusive development in Australia's aid program'*. The photo shows the Foreign Minister (third from left) at the launch with DFAT staff (from left to right: Mika Kontiainen, Disability Section (DS); Blair Exell, Development Policy Division; Katie Magee, DS; Shelly Thomson, DS; Anne Rigby, DS; and Carrie Netting, UK Department for International Development, seconded to DFAT). Many external stakeholders applauded the work of the Disability Section noting that it had provided clear direction, strong drive and deep engagement on key issues. Photo: DFAT

Figure 18: Factors that have made DFAT's advocacy for disability-inclusive development effective



Factors that have reduced effectiveness

The evaluation found some areas where DFAT's advocacy has not been effective, namely with the multilateral development banks and in the global education and health sectors. The recent performance issues around the UNSD project has lessened what has been an otherwise strong engagement in the disability data area. Reflecting on this, it is useful to identify the factors underpinning other successes that were absent or underplayed in these cases:

- DFAT has not been able to maintain a strong, sustained engagement focused on disability with the World Bank, ADB or GPE. This may be a reflection of the Canberra priority-setting process, a change in personnel or, in the case of the GPE, displacement of a disability focus by other, more immediate priorities.
- DFAT appears to have been less successful in finding or building coalitions to help amplify its advocacy with the World Bank and ADB, though both Banks' participation in GLAD suggest such coalitions may be possible. A clear exception is DFAT's ongoing engagement with the GFDRR
- DFAT's track record of using targeted funding to support advocacy seems to have misfired with its support of the UNSD
- Past concerns over medical models of disability and the lack of a focus on disability inclusion in DFAT's health strategy have possibly resulted in missed opportunities in global health program advocacy.

Value for money

DFAT's direct spend on international advocacy is modest. The annual spend of the direct advocacy programs was \$6.9 million in 2017-18, which is about 0.2 per cent of total official development assistance expenditure by Australia. The human resources dedicated to advocacy were similarly modest. The Disability Section has two staff dedicated to advocacy work. There were no staff at posts exclusively focused on disability inclusion. In both New York and Geneva (the two most active posts on inclusion), this work is incorporated into the broader roles of posted and locally engaged officers.

Two positive value-for-money assessments, both undertaken by Lorraine Wapling and Robin Brady in 2014, focused on DFAT's support for two activities included in the scope of this evaluation: one falling under the component of *Building Capacity of DPOs* (IDA); and the other falling under the component of *Influencing partner agencies* (UNPRPD). Both IDA and UNPRPD involved specific activities, produced identifiable outputs and could be matched to DFAT funding.

- In the case of UNPRPD, the economy of DFAT's funding (cost and inputs) was assessed as '*costs average and meets quality requirements*'; the efficiency (inputs to outputs) was assessed as '*inputs were average and produced high outputs*'; the effectiveness (from outputs to outcomes) as '*outputs led to a high level of*

outcomes yet it is unclear if/how they will be sustainable'; and from an equity aspect (population target and reach) as *'a high level of equity was achieved in the outcomes with clear potential for sustainability'*.

- In the case of IDA, the economy of DFAT's funding (cost and inputs) was assessed as *'costs low but meets quality requirements'*; the efficiency (inputs to outputs) was assessed as *'inputs were low and produced high outputs'*; the effectiveness (from outputs to outcomes) as *'outputs led to a high level of outcomes with clear potential for sustainability'*; and from an equity aspect (population target and reach) as *'a high level of equity achieved in outcomes with clear potential for sustainability'*.

However, DFAT's overall advocacy for inclusion does not take the form of a single, unified program with a traditional program structure drawing on a single budget line. It occurs in a variety of contexts and involves a range of mechanisms, partners and time frames. It draws on funding from a range of programs and budgets. This makes a traditional value for money assessment at an overall level more problematic.

While an overall assessment of value for money of DFAT's advocacy might not readily flow from DFAT's Value for Money framework of economy, efficiency, effectiveness and ethics; a sense of its relative value can be formed through the lens of the eight principles that DFAT articulates as sitting behind that framework. This is set out in Table 4, below, and shows that when examined against these principles, a credible case can be made that DFAT's approach to advocacy for inclusion does represent good value for money.

Table 4: Assessment using DFAT's Value for Money principles

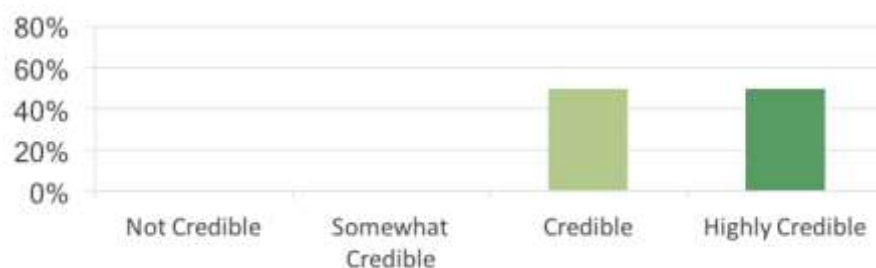
Principle	Characteristics of DFAT's advocacy for inclusion
ECONOMY	
1. Cost consciousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modest scale of investments (for example advocacy at the WHS) • Often pooled funding with other partners to magnify impact (for example, IDA and DRAF) • Tightly managed human resources, including use of locally engaged staff at post (for example in Geneva and New York)
2. Encouraging competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of partners used (DPOs, NGOs, bilateral partners) • Working collaboratively to encourage variation in approaches and ideas (for example, WHS, UNPRPD and GLAD)
EFFICIENCY	
3. Evidence based decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value for money reviews of IDA and UNPRPD • Independent evaluation of DRF/DRAF • Evaluation of PDF • Support for evaluation of UNDP • Mid-term review of strategy
4. Proportionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible funding model (for example, with IDA, DRAF, UNPRPD and WHS) • Partner reporting processes embedded in broader reporting (for example, in UN strategic partnerships)
EFFECTIVENESS	
5. Performance and risk management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership funding model shares risk (for example, with UNPRPD, DRAF and WHS) • Standard DFAT risk and safeguard requirements apply (for example, funding agreements with UN agencies, IDA and DRAF)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proactive membership of management arrangements (for example, with UNPRPD and GPE)
6. Results focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual high-level consultations to focus on outcomes (for example, with UN agencies) Increasing focus on Asia-Pacific (from example, through DRAF and UNPRPD) Cabled reporting of outcomes of meetings Positive 'spill over' on Australia and DFAT's standing
7. Experiment and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First funder of UNPRPD Early funder for PDF Core funding for IDA Innovative funding through DRF/DRAF Support for establishment of GLAD Support for advocacy on psychosocial disability
ETHICS	
8. Accountability and transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishing of funding details on web Sharing of information with partners (for example, through GLAD) Alignment with 'Nothing about us without us' principle

7.2 Credibility of Australia as an advocate

The effectiveness of DFAT's advocacy stems, to a considerable extent, from the credibility of Australia as an advocate. It is noteworthy that all 30 of the organisations surveyed who provided ratings felt Australia was either a credible or highly credible advocate for disability-inclusive development (Figure 19).

Figure 19: Credibility of Australian advocacy



The evaluation identified the following factors that helped make DFAT's advocacy credible (Figure 20):

- Australian advocacy sits on a foundation of domestic policies and settings around inclusion. The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) was positively referenced, in New York in relation to the CRPD and associated COSP activities, and in Geneva in terms of human rights. The engagement of the Australian Human Rights Commission in the COSP was considered valuable
- The *'Development for All'* strategies
- Modelling best practice: *'Nothing about us without us'*
- The long period over which advocacy has been sustained, which is considered to indicate a depth of commitment
- Supporting advocacy with funding

- The strength and consistency of messaging across most of DFAT’s operations including the commitment of DFAT leadership and presence of DFAT staff at numerous international events.

DFAT’s credibility has been slightly undermined by variability in consistency of engagement across the full range of its operations. While it has been a strong and consistent actor in the major global policy processes and has a consistent record of support for DPOs, including in policy dialogue in the UN system, it is seen as less engaged in policy dialogue over inclusion with multilateral development banks and in the global education and health sectors. Factors that appear to lessen DFAT’s credibility in these engagements are a ‘stop start’ engagement, possibly due to changes in personnel, and an absence of ready-made or easily-formed coalitions through which DFAT can amplify its advocacy.

Some stakeholders (DPOs, DFAT and other organisations) felt DFAT’s credibility could be improved by:

- Better coverage of good practice disability-inclusion across the aid program
- More extensive briefings for staff of key embassies so they are better equipped to speak about disability inclusion and DFAT’s work
- Increasing the complexity and nuancing of messages about disability inclusion.

Figure 20: Factors that have made Australia a highly credible advocate for disability-inclusive development



7.3 Australian leadership

The evaluation found strong evidence that Australia was valued as a leading advocate for disability inclusion in development. Thirty survey respondents provided assessments of the role played by Australia with most rating Australian leadership as significant or highly influential (Figure 21).

DFAT has shown leadership by being ambitious, innovative and the first funder of key initiatives (Figure 22). Early support for IDA, for example, helped develop IDA’s capacity to bring a DPO perspective into the UN system. Support for the UNPRPD has been acknowledged as effective in shaping and driving the agenda for disability reform in the UN.

Figure 21: Assessment of the role played by Australia

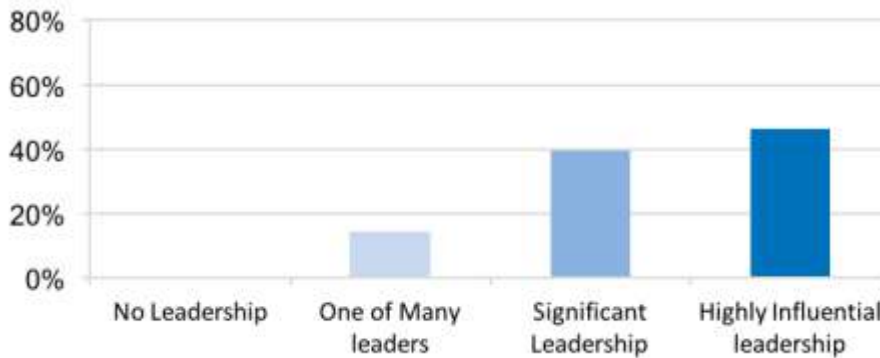
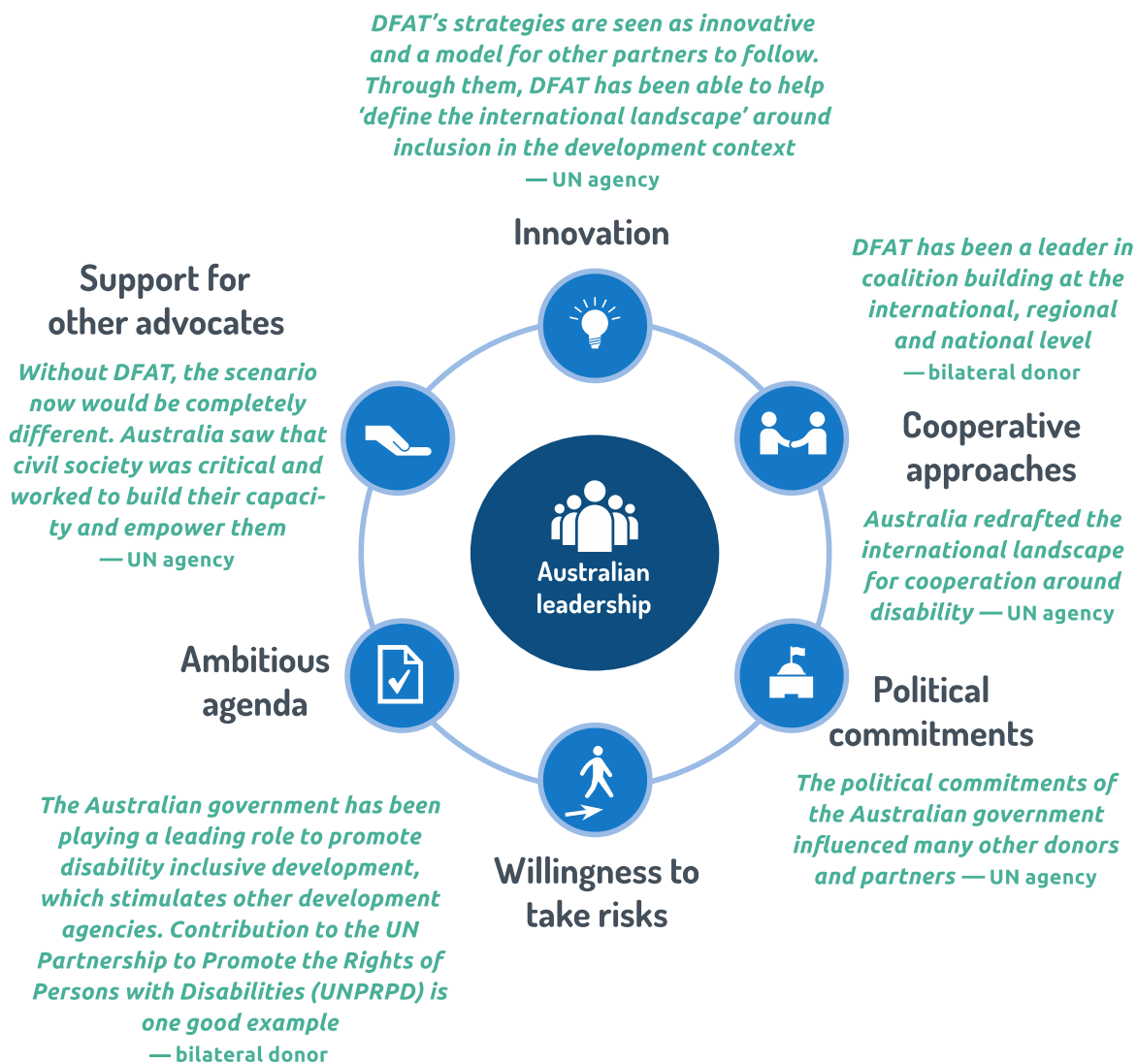


Figure 22: External stakeholders identified a number of ways Australia has shown leadership.



8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – THE ROLE FOR ADVOCACY GOING FORWARD

Disability inclusion is a long term, generational objective. There has been a decade of sustained advocacy by DFAT, among others, but substantial advances in disability rights and disability-inclusive development have only gathered pace over the past few years. These advances are strongly underpinned and supported by the CRPD agreed in 2006 and more recently through processes such as Sendai, the World Humanitarian Summit and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Much has happened that should be celebrated. But change is very slow. Change is happening... In the next two to three years things will start paying off — UN Agency

But challenges remain. The gains are not secured and further progress in disability inclusion could falter – possibly because of budgetary constraints, changes in personnel and other priorities emerging. There is still a long way to go before advances to date are translated into improvements in the daily lives of people with disabilities. Advocacy is still as necessary today as it was 10 years ago.

We have achieved a lot in the past 18-24 months. Humanitarian action will be more disability-inclusive... but all of this could fall over as a fad — DFAT staff member

8.1 Continuing advocacy with more focus on implementation

The broad range of complementary approaches used by DFAT to advocate for disability inclusion has helped to increase acceptance of the need for development to be disability inclusive, and this has led to changes in development policies. The challenge for DFAT is to articulate how advocacy can reinforce and build on progress to date and what form it should take as the focus moves from global negotiations of new frameworks in development policy and humanitarian action to their implementation. This will require advocacy to support implementation of disability-inclusive policies on the ground in developing countries.

A hallmark of DFAT's success has been the way it has modelled the principle 'Nothing about us without us.' DFAT's support has helped build the capacity of DPOs and facilitated their involvement in major policy and reform processes. People with disabilities and their organisations have increased voice and are increasingly central drivers of reform processes. They will be the main advocates to enable and support implementation of disability-inclusive policies.

One of the critiques of the disability landscape has been the notion (perceived or real) that the global disability advocacy agenda has been driven predominantly by persons with disability from developed countries and has therefore lacked sensitivity to the issues around inclusion in a developing country context. A related issue is how

emerging cross-disability perspectives can be both openly acknowledged and understood in terms of how they shape what ‘*Nothing about us without us*’ will mean going forward. Advocacy to support successful implementation may require new relationships, or the augmentation of old ones, as well as increasing support for regional and country-level DPOs. As the focus of disability inclusion moves from negotiation to implementation, DFAT should continue to monitor its strategic approach to DPO engagement to ensure it remains ‘fit for purpose’.

Recommendation

- 1** **DFAT should continue its international advocacy for disability inclusion and as part of this:**
 - Shift the focus of advocacy in global processes to supporting the implementation and monitoring of international commitments
 - Continue to support the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) to build the capacity of DPOs in Pacific countries and to increase country level implementation of the CRPD
 - Continue to monitor its overall engagement with people with disabilities and their organisations to ensure that this engagement is effective. This should include a questioning of who is the ‘us’ in ‘*Nothing about us without us*’.

8.2 Continuing Australian leadership

Australia is seen and valued as a leader in disability inclusion in the development process. Australia has modelled best practice, supported other advocates and facilitated cooperative approaches. DFAT has been a go-to partner for engagement, intellectual input and funding. Australian leadership has been built through consistent work, having an ambitious agenda, being innovative and by building the capacity of its own staff to understand and engage in disability inclusion.

DFAT has been a trailblazer in supporting disability-inclusive development. DFAT’s early and strong support of disability-inclusive development has led to increased visibility on the topic. Much work remains to ensure people with disabilities are treated as equal citizens but strong leadership from Australia will no doubt help advance the cause — Development agency

A decade is a long time for a policy to retain vigour and drive but DFAT has shown itself as one able to ‘stay the course’. Although an increased number of donors and agencies are now advocating for inclusion, Australian advocacy and leadership is still important internationally. If DFAT were to pull back from or deprioritise this advocacy work, it could undermine the successes it has had to date.

Australia’s current engagement in program funds and at the political level is critical — UN agency

Leadership in advocacy for inclusion has been positive for Australia’s standing and reputation in other forums, outside the development and humanitarian spaces. But leadership brings with it accountability and the justifiable expectation that a leader will persist. If DFAT steps away now from its role as a leading advocate for disability inclusion there will be negative spill-overs in terms of Australian broader standing, ‘presence’ and reputation.

What next? If Australia stepped back now it could be harmful. Australia has played a unique broad ranging role – political, intellectual, supporting better data. That would be hard to replace — UN agency

DFAT should continue to see and present itself as a leading advocate in disability inclusion and this should include continuing support and finance for new thinking and innovation. Disability inclusion is complex and difficult. Work is needed, for example, to identify what disability inclusion looks like in practice and to respond to cross disability perspectives. Continued Australian leadership in inclusion will likely require a third ‘Development for All’ strategy.

Recommendation	
2	<p>DFAT should continue to support Australian leadership for disability-inclusive development, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting innovative work in areas of key need• Working to identify what disability inclusion looks like in practice, including in humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction• Beginning the analysis, thinking and consultation that will inform the next ‘Development for All’ strategy.

8.3 Identifying and exploiting missed opportunities

DFAT has been a strong and consistent advocate for disability inclusion but the evaluation has identified areas where its advocacy has been less effective. DFAT’s credibility as an advocate is built and maintained by the consistency of its advocacy across its entire operations and across the full range of its partnerships. DFAT has missed some opportunities in this regard. For example, on any conservative estimate, DFAT advocacy with the World Bank, ADB and GPE has the potential to make many billions of dollars of development financing and project funding more disability-inclusive.

Recommendation

- 3** **DFAT should identify and use opportunities to advocate for disability inclusion in its operations by:**
- Systematically examining global and regional development partnerships, with an initial focus on high value global and regional investments with the World Bank and ADB, to identify opportunities for renewed advocacy for disability inclusion.
 - Examining sectoral strategies to test their alignment with the '*Development for All*' strategy
 - Ensuring consistency in DFAT advocacy for disability inclusion across key Posts
 - Increasing staff awareness that disability inclusion is a cross-cutting priority.

8.4 Progressing work to build better disability data

The evaluation found that DFAT is widely recognised as a leading advocate for better data on disability. Australian funding has been effectively used to support data improvement across a range of sectors and in a variety of settings. There is now strong consensus that the Washington Group questions, developed with DFAT support, can be used to provide useful disability data. However, funding to the Statistics Division of UNDESA to strengthen disability statistics has not progressed as expected. Further, the Division has stalled overall progress in building better disability data by not working cooperatively with other agencies, which all support the use of the Washington Group questions. The project itself has been identified by DFAT as underperforming and is subject to enhanced monitoring. DFAT's continued support for the activity could undermine its leadership and standing.

Recommendation

- 4** **DFAT should act decisively and end funding to the Statistics Division of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for work on disability statistics**

ANNEX 1: CURRENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Supporting advocacy by DPOs

A central component of Australian advocacy has been support for DPOs and coalitions advocating for disability inclusion. The largest current investments and their intended purposes are described below.

Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF): \$5.23 million, 2014-2018. This fund is a collaboration among donors, including Australia and the disability community, to provide grants to country-level Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs). The grants support DPOs to participate in advocating for ratification, implementation, and monitoring of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and promote a rights-based approach to disability equality at community and government levels. Australian funding is also used to support regional work of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

International Disability Alliance (IDA): \$2.47 million, 2015-2019. This network of global and regional DPOs acts as an authoritative and representative voice of persons with disabilities in the UN system. It aims to advance the human rights of persons with disabilities utilising the CRPD and other human rights instruments. Australian financing also enables the alliance to use its global reach to undertake capacity building activities with national and local DPOs in the Indo-Pacific region and act as co-chair of the Global Action on Disability Network (GLAD).

Pacific Disability Forum (PDF): \$5.9 million, 2009-2017. The forum is an umbrella organisation of Pacific DPOs that supports members to advocate for and advance their rights. PDF works with governments, civil society and development partners to develop disability-inclusive policies and actions. PDF also works with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, UN agencies, development partners, churches, regional civil society organisations and service providers to ensure that people with disabilities are included in national and regional plans and policies.

Supporting advocacy by improving disability disaggregated data

Improving disability data has been a priority of both *Development for All* strategies. Key investments that are being used to improve disability data are described below.

UNICEF Rights, Education and Protection of children with disabilities 2: \$4.5 million, 2015-2019. Funding is addressing the lack of research, evidence and data on children with disabilities, which will inform policy priorities to better address needs and make sure every child is counted.

UNICEF Disability-Inclusive Data Collection: \$0.9 million, 2014-2017. UNICEF is working with the United Nations Washington Group on Disability Statistics to improve data collection on children with disabilities and produce internationally comparable, statistically rigorous data on children and women.

United Nations Statistical Division Strengthening disability statistics for the post-2015 development agenda: \$4 million, 2015-2018. Australia is supporting a project to formulate international guidelines for measurement of disability to enhance the capacity of national statistical systems to collect and generate relevant and quality disability statistics based on international guidelines.

Washington Group on Disability Statistics Supporting institutional capacity: \$2.8 million, 2015-2019. Australia is helping to disseminate 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.

Influencing development partners

DFAT has attempted to bring an awareness and understanding of the importance of disability-inclusive development to a range of partnerships. Some partners have been specifically funded to work to improve disability inclusion. Two examples of this are described below:

United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD): \$6.95 million, 2012-2016 (Support for Phase 2 for the period 2017-2021 is under consideration). Australian funding has been used to develop the capacity of national stakeholders, particularly governments and DPOs, to effectively implement the CRPD.

World Health Organisation: Partnership to Enhance the Lives of Persons with Disabilities: \$6.16 million, 2011–2018. Australian funding has assisted the Western Pacific Regional Office to enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities through strengthening community-based rehabilitation guidelines and services, the provision of technical assistance, strengthening data collection on the situation of people with disability, capacity building of national health ministries, and the development of disability-related guidelines and information.

ANNEX 2: EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Outline of methodologies

Method	Description	Purpose
Document review	<p>Strategies</p> <p>Partnership/funding agreements</p> <p>Records for and from high level meetings</p> <p>Partner reporting</p> <p>Existing evaluations</p> <p>Ministerial speeches, press releases and attendance at key events</p>	<p>To identify and define advocacy strategies that Australia has used</p> <p>To identify key players</p> <p>To synthesise existing evidence of the effectiveness of Australia's advocacy</p> <p>To inform the selection of case studies for the evaluation</p>
Key informant interviews	<p>Semi-structured interviews to provide first-hand accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key senior DFAT staff in Canberra, Geneva and New York or remotely if necessary • Representatives from DPOs • Representatives from partner agencies • Representatives from CSOs that focus on disability • Representatives from development agencies 	<p>To identify the nature and extent of advocacy</p> <p>To assess the extent to which Australian interventions have contributed to outcomes</p> <p>To determine if there is any evidence that people with disabilities have benefitted as a result of Australian advocacy</p> <p>To assess the credibility of Australia as an advocate</p>
Case Studies	<p>Detailed studies using interviews and documentation, with additional inputs from the survey</p>	<p>To provide in depth examples of the work done</p> <p>To assess outcomes and explore the extent to which Australia's advocacy has contributed to observed effects</p> <p>To explore the complexity of contemporary disability inclusion advancements</p>
Survey	<p>Survey of a broader range of stakeholders than can be interviewed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other donor agencies • disability foundations including some that have not been funded by DFAT • NGOs • DPOs <p>Provide quantitative data</p>	<p>To provide a broader and more 'independent' assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the extent to which Australian advocacy has contributed to disability-inclusive outcomes at key international forums • the significance of Australian support for DPOs • the significance of Australian support for coalitions • the credibility of Australian advocacy
Recommendations workshop	<p>A workshop will be held with DFAT staff to develop recommendations</p>	<p>Ensure recommendations are appropriate and implementable</p>

Evaluation questions

Question	Primary data source	Secondary data sources
To what extent has Australian advocacy influenced global policy processes?		
Has it led to changes in policies?	Interviews with partner organisations, DPOs, other donors and DFAT staff Survey	Documentation
Has it led to changes in development practices?	Interviews with partner organisations, DPOs, other donors and DFAT staff Survey	Documentation
To what extent has Australia built the capacity of DPOs and supported their advocacy?		
How has Australia supported DPO advocacy?	Interviews with DFAT staff, DPOs and disability organisations Survey	Documentation Interviews with partner organisations
Has DFAT identified the most appropriate organisations to fund?	Interviews with DPOs and partner organisations	Interviews with DFAT staff
Has Australian support been effective?	Interviews with DPOs & partner organisations	Documentation
What has been achieved by funded DPOs?	Interviews with DPOs Interviews with partner organisations	Documentation
To what extent has Australia built coalitions to support collective advocacy?		
Has Australia supported formal or informal coalitions?	Interviews with DPOs Interviews with DFAT staff Survey	Interviews with partner organisations
Has Australia worked in concert with others?	Interviews with DPOs Interviews with DFAT staff	Interviews with partner organisations
To what extent has Australia supported disability data collection?		
To what extent has Australia advocated for better disability data collection?	Interviews with DFAT staff, partner organisations and DPOs Survey	Documentation
Has DFAT identified the most appropriate organisations to fund?	Interviews with partner organisations and DPOs	Interviews with DFAT staff
To what extent has Australian influenced partner agencies?		
Has it led to changes in policies?	Interviews with DFAT staff, partner organisations and other donors Survey	Documentation Interviews with DPOs
Has it led to changes in development practices?	Interviews with DFAT staff, partner organisations and other donors Survey	Documentation Interviews with DPOs

Is Australian advocacy credible?		
Have representatives of the Australian Government consistently advocated for disability-inclusive development in partnerships and international forums and has the message itself been consistent?	Survey Interviews with DPOs and representative(s) of partner organisations Documentation	Interviews with DFAT staff
Is Australia's advocacy and its actions (what it funds/supports) aligned?	Interviews with DFAT staff and partner organisations	
Has Australian advocacy been informed by consultation with, or undertaken in partnership with, people with disabilities themselves?	Interviews with DPOs and DFAT staff	Interviews with partner organisations
Overall, to what extent has Australian advocacy (including DFAT-funded advocacy by others) been effective?		
Has it achieved intended short-term and intermediate outcomes?	Interviews Survey	Documentation
Has it led to changes in policies?	Interviews with DFAT staff and partner organisations and other donors Survey	Documentation Interviews with DPOs
Has it led to changes in development practices?	Interviews with DFAT staff, partner organisation and other donors Survey Interviews with DPOs	Documentation
Has it led to improvements in the rights and/or lives of people with disabilities?	Interviews with DPOs Interviews partner organisations	Documentation
What factors have influenced the success of Australian advocacy?		
Has Australia effectively used funding to support advocacy for disability inclusion?	Interviews with DPOs and partner organisations	Interviews with DFAT staff
Overall, has the choice of interventions and use of resources been appropriate and good value for money?	Interviews with partner organisations and DPOs	Interviews with DFAT staff Documentation
Has Australia been a leading advocate?		
	Survey Interviews with DPOs and partner organisations, Survey Interviews with DFAT staff	

Key informant interviews

Interviews were carried out in person in Canberra, New York, Boston, Washington and Geneva, or remotely.

Organisation	Number of interviews	Number of participants
DFAT staff	14	24
Disabled peoples organisations	2	2
UN agencies	8	20
Organisations with a focus on disability	2	4
Other international development organisations	3	4
Donor agencies	2	2

Survey

All questions and except Question 9 had a quantifiable component and an option for commentary.

Survey Questions	
1	What is the extent of the Australian Government's advocacy efforts to promote the CRPD?
2a	What was the extent of the Australian Government's advocacy for disability inclusion in the development of the Sendai Framework?
2b	How influential was this advocacy for disability inclusion?
3a	What was the extent of Australian Government advocacy for disability inclusion in the World Humanitarian Summit and processes leading up to it?
3b	How influential was this advocacy for disability inclusion?
4a	What was the extent of Australian Government advocacy for disability inclusion throughout the development of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?
4b	How influential was this advocacy for disability inclusion?
5a	To what extent has the Australian Government supported DPOs?
5b	Has Australian Government support for DPOs been effective in building DPO capacity to advocate on disability inclusion and disability rights?
6a	To what extent has the Australian Government built coalitions to advocate for disability-inclusive development?
6b	How effective has Australian Government support for coalition building been?
7a	Is Australia seen to be a credible advocate for disability-inclusive development?
7b	What is your opinion of the overall effectiveness of Australian Government advocacy for disability-inclusive development?
7c	Has Australia played a leadership role in advocating for disability-inclusive development?
8	Other initiatives where Australia has advocated for disability inclusion
9	What should the Australian Government prioritise in future advocacy relating to disability-inclusive development?

For all quantifiable questions, there was a 'don't know' option. Respondents choosing this option were excluded from the analysis. The percentage of respondents who chose the don't know option varied considerably between questions.

Question topic	Number of respondents who provided rating	Number of respondents who chose 'don't know' option	Percentage of respondents who chose 'don't know' option (%)
CRPD	24	7	24
Sendai Framework			
a. Extent	12	19	68
b. Influence	12	19	68
WHS 2016			
a. Extent	17	14	48
b. Influence	18	13	46
SDGs			
a. Extent	24	7	24
b. Influence	24	7	25
Support for DPOs			
a. Extent	27	4	14
b. Influence	23	8	28
Support for Building Coalitions			
a. Extent	31	0	0
b. Effectiveness	30	1	3
Overall Assessment of Advocacy			
a. Credibility	30	1	3
b. Effectiveness	28	3	10
c. Leadership role	30	1	3

Assessing the strength of evidence

The strength of evidence supporting Australian advocacy having made a significant contribution to outcomes was assessed and documented as follows:

Strength of evidence	Supporting evidence
Strong	Robust, verified, triangulated with multiple examples/cases, high level of consensus
Adequate	Triangulated, more than five examples/cases/sources, supported by diverse stakeholders
Weak	Anecdotal, not able to be triangulated or verified

Documents reviewed

Focus agency	Type of document reviewed
DFAT	Articles and papers on advocacy and policy evaluation Brief on GLAD network DFAT internal communication; country specific briefs; background on Washington Group related to improving data collection on disability
UN Office for Disaster Reduction for UN General Assembly	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and related articles
International Foundation for Electoral Systems	Online article: Virginia Atkinson, 'South Asian Disability Rights Advocates Secure Key Advocacy Win', IFES, (14 October 2015), linked to DFAT conference support and outlined delegate representation and training
UN and DFAT	Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit; Australian follow-up; action briefing; Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action
UNICEF	Strategic Partnership Framework; meeting papers; statement; strategic plan; case study of disability partnerships; reports; data; Finland support information
UNDP and UNPRPD	Strategic Partnership Framework; background document; statement; case Study of disability partnership; evaluation
WHO and WFP	DFAT commentary on WFP and disability inclusion; case study of disability partnership; DFAT internal communication on WHO and Disability Inclusive Development (DID)
World Bank and ADB	Report on major development banks and disability inclusive development; communication/promotion of disability inclusive development; SABER papers (background and brief)
Global Partnership for Education	Speech notes for conference; meeting agenda; briefings - meetings and financial
UNESCAP	Capacity Development Project Activity Report
UNFPA	Strategic Partnership Framework; progress notes; concept paper
UN Women	Progress notes
Disability Rights Advocacy Fund	Proposal; investment design and evaluation
International Disability Alliance	Value for money assessment by L Wapling and R Brady; Review of Disability Partnership case study
All Children Reading (USAID, World Vision, DFAT)	Project communication materials; meeting notes; media release; concept documents; GLAD Working Group paper
Pacific Disability Forum	Evaluation; historical document Australia Pacific Islands Disability Support (APIDS) in Pacific 2005-2015
Women's Refugee Commission	Promoting Access and Inclusion for Displaced Populations with Disabilities final report; communication, including examples on disability inclusive development document development

Informants

Agency	Survey responders	Interviewed
Bilateral donors	USAID UK - DFID Canada EU Mexico Finland Netherlands Japan Thailand New Zealand Switzerland	USAID Finland
UN agencies	ILO World Bank UNDP UNDESA UN Women UNICEF WHO	UNDESA UNICEF UN Women UNDP ILO WHO World Bank
Other organisations	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Asian Development Bank Women's Refugee Commission International Foundation for Electoral Systems Australian Council for International Development Nippon Foundation Global Partnership for Education	Women's Refugee Commission ICRC Global Partnership for Education
Disability organisations	Movability Foundation Australian Disability and Development Consortium Disability Rights Fund CBM Australia	Movability Foundation Disability Rights Fund
DPOs	International Disability Alliance Pacific Disability Forum	International Disability Alliance Pacific Disability Forum

Limitations

Time constraints The evaluation was conducted over four months from mid-July to mid-November 2017, with a limited number of days at overseas posts where much of the direct advocacy work has been done (eight days). The evaluation team therefore had to restrict work to areas where the most advocacy effort was invested, where evidence of outcomes were available, and/or where disability inclusion should have been prioritised.

Responsiveness to the survey The response rate to the survey was 74 per cent. Failure to respond to the survey may have been because of a lack of knowledge of, or interest in, Australian advocacy or an unwillingness to provide negative feedback. The survey was sent to a number of organisations that have not been closely with associated with DFATs advocacy work in an attempt to obtain a more independent assessment of Australian advocacy. Most of these organisations did not respond to the survey suggesting that failure to respond may reflect lack of knowledge.

Positive bias of informants Most of those interviewed and many survey respondents are funded by Australia, which could have introduced positive bias. However, bias is unlikely to have significantly affected the findings of the evaluation:

- Informants were, almost universally, very positive about DFAT's advocacy
- About half of survey respondents are not funded by DFAT
- In the survey ratings were similar whether or not organisations were funded by DFAT
- Interviewees were assured of confidentiality
- In interviews, funded agencies were asked to comment on DFATs advocacy in areas outside their work and the performance of other agencies funded by DFAT.

Availability of documentation Attempts to obtain relevant documentation from DFAT were time consuming and not very productive. Documentation, such as that outlining inputs and outputs relating to high-level consultations, would have been useful to confirm information supplied in interviews.