4th Funding Round – 2020

**Expression of Interest Form (EOI)**

# Instructions

*Please review the Terms of Reference carefully before completing the Expression of Interest Form for full details on the focus, application process, eligibility, and selection criteria for the Call. Refer to UNPRPD MPTF Strategic Operational Framework 2020-2025 and strategic briefings on 1) The preconditions necessary to ensure disability inclusion, and 2) Cross-Cutting Approaches (with checklist) for further details on UNPRPD MPTF priorities. In line with UNPRPD MPTF Cross-Cutting Approaches, UNCTs should consult persons with disabilities and their representative organizations (OPDs) when completing the EOI.*

*The completed EOI and 2 Letters of Endorsement (see section 8 below) should be emailed to* **unprpd.fund.calls@undp.org***with copy to* *Ola.abualghaib@undp.org* *by* ***30 September 2020***. *For any questions, please contact the UNPRPD MPTF Technical Secretariat at* **unprpd.fund.calls@undp.org****.**

Please note EOI and Letters of Endorsement will need to be provided in accessible formats. You can find more information on how you can ensure your documents are accessible in WORD [**here**](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/make-your-word-documents-accessible-to-people-with-disabilities-d9bf3683-87ac-47ea-b91a-78dcacb3c66d)and in PDF [**here**](https://www.adobe.com/accessibility/pdf/pdf-accessibility-overview.html).

# Country details

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| **Country: Ghana** |
| **Income: $2,202 (2019 GDP per capita)\***  |
| **Bottom 50 HDI: Yes [Ghana’s HDI value for 2018 is 0.596— which puts the country in the medium human development category— positioning it at 142 out of 189 countries and territories]**  |
| **LDCs: No** |
| **Fragile Context[[1]](#footnote-1): No** |
| **Is the country facing a humanitarian emergency crisis: No** |

# National context

## 2.1 Data availability

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| When did the last national census take place? What is the prevalence of disability based on the last census? Were the Washington Group Questions used?The last national census was conducted in 2010. The results of the last Census indicate that there are 737,743 Persons with Disability among the population constituting 3% of the total population. 52.5% of this number are females, while 47.5% are males. About 39% of all PWDs in Ghana had multiple disabilities. Nationally, the most common type of disability is sight or visual impairments (40.1%), followed by physical disability (25.4%). The Washington Group Questions were not used. |
| When is the next national census scheduled? Are there plans to use the Washington Group Questions in whole or in part for the next census?Ghana was scheduled to conduct the next national census in 2020 however, due to COVID-19, it has been rescheduled to May-June 2021. All the six indicators for Washington Group Questions will be incorporated fully in the upcoming census. The UN System in Ghana through UNFPA is working closely with the Ghana Statistical Service to facilitate the process and advocate the inclusion of the Washington Group Questions. |
| Please list relevant government surveys carried out in the last 2 years that collected data on persons with disabilities (e.g., model disability survey, household survey, education survey). * Ghana Living Standard survey, collated by the Ghana Statistical Service
* Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey and
* Education Management Information System (EMIS) - this system collates administrative data which includes data on children with disability in schools.
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| Please list relevant major studies or research by non-government actors on the situation of persons with disabilities from the last 2 years, including lead research institute, title, main topic, and year of completion.1. SAGE Journal: Cloak of Invisibility: A Literature Review of Physical Disability in Ghana by Magnus Mfoafo-M’Carthy 1, Jeff D. Grischow 2, and Nicole Stocco; 2020 (<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/2158244019900567> )
2. Journal, Disability and Society: Exposing the protected: Ghana’s disability laws and the rights of disabled people by Joseph Ocran: June 2018 (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09687599.2018.1556491?scroll=top&needAccess=true> )
3. Review of Social Studies (RoSS), Vol.5, No.2, Spring 2018. Natural or Supernatural: Beliefs About the Causes of Intellectual Disability in Ghanaian Society by Abigail Adubia Mills of the University of Ghana, 2018 (<https://www.rossjournal.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Natural-or-Supernatural-Beliefs-About-the-Causes-of-Intellectual-Disability-in-Ghanaian-Society-RoSS-Vol5-No2-2018-v3.1-2.pdf> )
4. Research Trust Limited, Inclusive education: Learners with disabilities and special education needs in Ghana, Research report by Bernardin Senadza, Hayford M. Ayerakwa, Abigail A. Mills, Charles A. Oppong and George Asare – June 2019 (<http://www.t-tel.org/files/docs/Learning%20Hub/Research%20and%20evidence%20-%20teacher%20education%20in%20Ghana/Final%20Inclusion%20Education%20Report.pdf>)
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## 2.2 Legislative framework

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| When was the CRPD ratified? If it has not been ratified, please spell out government plans to ratify.Ghana ratified the Convention on 22nd August 2012. |
| Please list the year(s) that the country was reviewed by the CRPD Committee and briefly describe the process that the government put in place to implement the recommendations from the Concluding Observations, e.g., meetings with OPDs, setting up a task force / committee, holding a press conference, etc. If the country has not been reviewed by the CRPD Committee yet, please spell out any plans for reporting.Ghana is yet to be reviewed by the CRPD Committee. The country was required to have submitted its first report on 22nd August, 2014 outlining the legislative, judicial, policy and other measures it has taken to implement the rights affirmed in the Convention, however due to implementation delays and challenges it could not do so. Ghana was finally able to submit its first report on June 14th, 2018 and awaits the review.  |
| Has the government established a national monitoring mechanism for CRPD implementation (as per CRPD Article 33)? If yes, please briefly describe the structure and mandate of the monitoring mechanism.No, the Government is yet to establish a national monitoring mechanism through the National Council on Persons with Disability.  |
| Is there a national disability law? If yes, please provide the name of the law, date it came into force, and link to the text on the Internet. Yes, Ghana has a national Disability law. The law is the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715, it came into force on the 9th August, 2006 <https://sapghana.com/data/documents/DISABILITY-ACT-715.pdf> **Comment:** The ACT has not been effectively implemented due to many reasons including the lack of a legislative instrument (LI) to outline the implementation modalities to make it enforceable and low political will to ensure the effective implementation of the Act. In accordance with the requirement of the CRPD a process has begun to review the ACT to ensure its compliance with provision of the convention. An LI has been developed in addition to the proposed amendment of the ACT and a Legislative Instrument being created to make it fully enforceable.  |
| What steps, if any, has the government taken to implement the national disability law, e.g., allocated a budget, outlined an action plan, developed by-laws, etc.? In summary the steps the Government has taken to implement the Persons with Disability Act, 2006, (Act 715) includes: 1. **Establishment of the National Council on Persons with Disability (NCPD):** The NCPD is a State Agency mandated to coordinate disability matters at the national, regional and district levels.
2. **Strengthening of National Policies and Legislations:** the ACT 715 resulted in the mainstreaming of disability into some legislations and ACTs. The Persons with Disability Act also resulted in the enactment of some other disability legislations and policies such as the Mental Health Act, 2012 and the Inclusive Education Policy (2015).
3. **The Adoption of Guidelines and Standards to mainstream disability:** The State developed Ghana Accessibility Standard on the Built Environment and the Framework and Strategy for Mainstreaming Disability into the Municipal, Metropolitan and District Assemblies (MMDAs).
4. **The development of disaggregated database of persons with disabilities:** The State is in the process of developing a reliable disaggregated database.
5. **In line with the principles of ‘Nothing about us without us and leave no one behind’,** the state works to strengthen consultations, partnerships and collaborations with organisations of persons with disabilities and civil society organisations that work to promote the interest of persons with disabilities
6. **Budgetary Allocation:** The State Agency for Disability matters, the NCPD is allocated budget yearly for its administration, monitoring and evaluation activities; as well as mainstreaming and inclusion initiatives.
7. Disbursement of 3% Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assembly Common Fund to persons with disability: The state as part of the implementation of the Disability Act provided for this to be applied towards the following;
* Advocacy/awareness raising on the rights and responsibilities of PWDs
* Strengthening of OPDs (Organizational development)
* Training in employable skills/apprenticeship
* Income generation activities (input/working capital)
* Some educational support for children, students and trainees with disability
* Provision of technical aids, assistive devices, equipment and registration of NHIS

The NCPD put together guidelines for the disbursement of the funds. In spite of this the reality is that some Local Assemblies are not giving PWDs access to the funds. Additionally, some of the PWDs do not have a common front or voice at the local level to demand access to the funds.  |
| Which government ministries or entities are leading the implementation of the national disability law?The main ministry leading the implementation of the Persons with Disability Act is the Ministry of Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP). The National Council on Persons with Disabilities is a state agency under the Ministry. They are mandated to coordinate activities that mainstream persons with disabilities and monitor the human rights of persons with disabilities in collaboration with other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) such as the Ministry of Education; the Special Education Division of the Ghana Education Service; the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development through the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs); Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations and the Ministry of Health and Ghana Health Service and the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, among others. The National Council on Persons with Disabilities supports mainstreaming through effective laws and policies. |

## 2.3 Access to services

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| Briefly describe the existing systems for disability assessment and referral (1 paragraph).There are national assessment centers located in Ghana’s capital, Accra, and regional assessment centers across the country. The mandate of the assessment centers includes support disability assessment and classroom placement (for learners), provision of assistive devices. However, about 50% of these assessment centers are not functional due to limited resources including appropriate facilities, human resource/capacity, screening materials, assistive devices, among others and the awareness to increase patronage to the assessment centres has been limited and further challenged because of proximity and cost. To address the knowledge and access gaps, UNICEF in 2019, supported Inclusion Ghana (a member of Ghana Federation of Disabilities Organizations) to develop a national directory of support services available across the country for PwDs. The final draft directory is available and awaiting approval from Ghana Education Services and will be used to create increased awareness of the services available in support of persons with disability including children, across the country. |
| Briefly describe the disability support services and the availability of these services, e.g., personal assistance, Sign Language interpretation, assistive devices, etc. (1 paragraph).The Special Education Division of the Ghana Education Service provides some sign language interpretation services to PWDs. Largely, Development Partners, CSOs/NGO have supported the provision of support services including assistive devices. Knowledge and access to these are limited to PWDs. In 2017, UNICEF with funding from USAID, supported Regional Assessment Centers with the provision of basic screening materials (snellen charts, tossing ring, tennis ball, set of drums) and assistive devices (crutches, wheelchair, walking stick, spectacles, hearing aids). Further, since 2012, UNICEF has supported disability screening and referral for learners in selected basic schools in seven (7) out of ten (10) regions. There is limited sustainability to such interventions since they are funded through development assistance rather than integrated through government budget. Teachers in these selected schools received training on how to do basic screening for identification of disability and referral for further diagnosis and support. For the past two years, the Ghana Health Service in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service have commenced health/disability screening in all pre-tertiary institutions, learning lessons from the UNICEF supported screening initiatives.There are attitudinal, institutional and environmental barriers in accessing social protection programmes in Ghana by people with disabilities. Widespread negative attitudes towards people with disabilities constrain the extent to which people with disabilities know about and seek assistance. It also isolates them from social spaces from where they might be expected to gain information. One key institutional barrier is the lack of reliable data and information on disability which results in underestimation of prevalence rates and under-resourcing of support services. Significant environmental barriers include lack of physical access to offices and registration processes to a lack of access to public information and awareness campaigns, difficulties in travelling long distances etc. Generally, disability issues have not been mainstreamed into social protection programme design, delivery/implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation.  |
| Is there a system or body to coordinate services across sectors focusing on persons with disabilities? If yes, briefly describe (1 paragraph).National Council on Persons with Disability is the body mandated by an Act of Parliament to coordinate services across sectors focusing on persons with disabilities at the national Regional and District levels. However, the absence of regional and district offices (contrary to Section 49 of Act 715), absence of Standard Operational Manuals and Standard Training Manuals (contrary to Section 49 of Act 715). Absence of reliable disaggregated data (contrary to Section 49 of Act 715), as well as the non-existence of support systems regulated by the Council are gaps that seriously undermine the effectiveness of the coordinating mandate of the Council. In addition, the Ghana Federation of Disabilities Organisations (GFD) coordinates activities of the nine (9) different disability Organisations of Peoples with Disables. Within the education sector, UNICEF has supported the establishment of a national Inclusive Education Steering Committee. The committee is chaired by the Deputy Director-General (Management and Services) of Ghana Education Service and coordinates the effective implementation of Ghana’s Inclusive Education Policy. NCPD and private practitioners are all members of the Committee. |
| Which underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities experience significant barriers to accessing mainstream services? Provide 2 examples of underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities are unable to access services (1 paragraph each).**Deafblind:** The deafblind are among the underrepresented groups of PWDs in Ghana and face significant barriers to knowledge and access of services. Among the many challenges faced by this category of PWDs include the absence of organized movement to promote their rights. Access to social services including education, health, etc remains a challenge. Within the education sector, there is limited knowledge about the condition and there is a lack of trained teachers to support such learners within the regular school system. Hence, denying them of an inclusive education. Ghana’s Inclusive Education Policy emphasizes on mainstreaming learners with mild and moderate disabilities in regular schools whereas those with severe and profound cases are educated in special schools. In the health sector, doctors and nurses have little knowledge about how to manage persons with such conditions.**Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD):** Even though there is an organized movement to promote their rights, there is limited knowledge about the condition. Largely, parents/caregivers are reluctant to assess social services for children with IDD for fear of stigmatization. Often, IDDs are sexually abused and assessing justice in most cases is a challenge, due to misinterpretation of information made by such PWDs. Further, there is weak system capacity within health and education sectors to support/manage Persons with IDD.  |

## 2.4 Gender equality

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| Which of the following are inclusive of and accessible to women and girls with disabilities? Tick if they are disability inclusive.**x National plans on gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices** ☐ Services to prevent and respond to GBV☐ Sexual and reproductive health services☐ National action Plan on Women, Peace, and SecurityThe national domestic violence policy on gender-based violence (GBV) and harmful practices is inclusive of the interests of women and girls with disabilities. These issues were identified through national consultations, the policy recognized the limited attention to issues and aspirations of women with disabilities. For instance, it documents that “existing interventions for women have not adequately and specifically addressed the concerns of women with disabilities.” However, the policy does not specifically direct how issues of women with disabilities could be mainstreamed. They are not accessible to all women with disabilities.The policy has expired (2009-2019) and a review would be appropriate. |
| Is there currently an OPD operating nationally or sub-nationally focusing on women with disabilities? Yes/ NoNO. However the nine (9) disability groups working under the Ghana Federation for Disability Organisations (GFD) prioritize issues on women and girls with disabilities. Most of these groups have structures both at the national and sub national levels. They include the Ghana Blind Union, Ghana National Association of the Deaf, Ghana Society of the Physically Disabled, Ghana Association of Persons with Albinism, Mental Health Society of Ghana, Inclusion Ghana – a group of people with intellectual disability, Share Care Ghana – a group of people with auto-immune and neurological disorders, and Burns Survivors Foundation and Ghana stammering Association. |

## 2.5 Disability movement

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| Are OPDs consulted by government in policy making? Yes/ No/ Partially. **Partially.** The GFD and their membership are consulted by government agencies sometimes, especially in sectors such as Education, Employment and Labour Relations, National Development Planning Commission. However, engagement with sectors such as health, justice, agriculture and others are weak. An example of positive engagement is the implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy where OPDs have representatives on the Inclusive Education National Steering Committee. |
| What are the top 3 barriers to OPD participation in policy decision-making? (1 paragraph each)**The absence of a legislative instrument (LI)** to outline the implementation modalities **to make the Disability Act enforceable/operational** is a significant barrier coupled with the inadequateawareness about the Persons with Disability Act and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the roles of government agencies culminates into the lack of capacity of officers across sectors in the knowledge of disability mainstreaming. Secondly, **Limited Capacity of OPDs and NCPD -** Limited capacity of OPD’s to engage in meaningful discussions at policy level is a barrier to their participation in the decision-making process. Evidence shows that quite a number of OPDs have limited understanding about the legal frameworks that promote the rights of PWDs and mostly adopt more of the charity model in the development and implementation of disability -focused interventions. In addition, the lack of resource capacity and absence of platforms of engagement impacts negatively on the ability of the NCPD in spearheading capacity and sensitisation programs in disability activities among policy makers across sectors. UNDP since 2012 has built capacities of OPDs to facilitate their participation in planning and budgeting processes at the decentralised levels in some districts. **Stigmatization** associated with myths and misconceptions about disability issues sometimes hinders the full participation of disability movements in policy making processes. The situation becomes compounded especially when the leads of these OPDs are PWDs themselves and are expected to represent the movement during policy level engagements |
| What are the most underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities?The underrepresented groups of persons with disabilities in Ghana include: **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD):** Even though there is an organized movement to promote their rights, there is limited knowledge about the condition. Largely, parents/caregivers are reluctant to assess social services for children with IDD for fear of stigmatization. Often, IDDs are sexually abused and assessing justice in most cases is a challenge, due to misinterpretation of information made by such PWDs. Further, there is weak system capacity within health and education sectors to support/manage Persons with IDD. PWDs with IDDs include Persons with psychosocial disabilities; persons with cerebral palsy; Persons with developmental and neurological disabilities; persons with intellectual disability; persons with autism; persons with Down syndrome**Deafblind:** The deafblind are among the underrepresented groups of PWDs in Ghana and face significant barriers to knowledge and access of services. Among the many challenges faced by this category of PWDs include the absence of organized movement to promote their rights. Access to social services including education, health, etc remains a challenge. Within the education sector, there is limited knowledge about the condition and there is a lack of trained teachers to support such learners within the regular school system. Hence, denying them of an inclusive education. Ghana’s Inclusive Education Policy emphasizes on mainstreaming learners with mild and moderate disabilities in regular schools whereas those with severe and profound cases are educated in special schools. In the health sector, doctors and nurses have little knowledge about how to manage persons with such conditions.**Other underrepresented groups include:** Persons with spinal injury; persons with autoimmune conditions; persons with osteogenesis imperfecta; Persons with albinism; Persons with epilepsy; Persons with leprosy; and Little persons. |

## 2.6 External investment in the country

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| Please list other MPTFs that invested in the country in the last 2 years or that have plans to invest. List name of fund focus area of program, and dates of program. 1. UN COVID-19 MPTF – Addressing gaps in Ghana’s Pandemic Response for the most vulnerable populations (May 2020 - December 2020)
2. UN COVID-19 MPTF – Strengthening Women & Youth Led MSMEs Through Skills Development, Institutional Support, Innovation & Green Economy (Pipeline)
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| Please list current funders/donors investing in disability inclusion in the country and the primary areas of focus for each donor (e.g., OPD capacity development, inclusive education, rehabilitation services, etc.)?* World Bank – Inclusive Education
* MasterCard Foundation – Inclusive Education
* USAID – Inclusive Education
* Global Affairs Canada – Inclusive Education
* Disability Rights Fund -Advocacy on Rights of PWDs
* Open Society Initiative of West Africa (OSIWA) – Inclusive Education
* DFID Ghana – Health and Productive Inclusion
* Disable People's Organizations, Denmark – Institutional Strengthening
* VOICE - Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
* Amplify Ghana – Sexual and Reproductive health and rights for PWDs
* Swedish Government, SIDA- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Inclusive Education and Services
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| Please list the top 3 INGO programs currently being delivered on persons with disabilities in the country. List the name of the INGO and focus area of the program.1. **Sightsavers** –Disability inclusion in SDGs, Implementation of the African disability protocol, Inclusive education and Disability in inclusive Election 2020.
2. **Plan International:** support on implementation of Inclusive Education
3. **Action Aid:** supporting the review of the Disability Law
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# UNCT’s role in disability inclusion at country level

## 3.1 UNCT partnerships and programs on disability inclusion

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| Does the RCO have a disability focal point?Yes – but this is rolled into the brief of an existing team member and this does not suffice. Up until June 2020, the RCO had a JPO role for Human Rights and Gender where this work had some more specific oversight. This role is not core funded and therefore there is limited capacity currently to lead this. The RCO is actively seeking funding to support this role moving forward.  |
| List the UNCT-led capacity building efforts over the past 2 years as well as future capacity building plans for national stakeholders on disability inclusion, including type of capacity building, key topics, dates, and targeted participant groups.

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| **EDUCATION SUPPORTED CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES** |
| **TOPIC**  | **YEAR** | **PARTICIPANTS** |
| Policy & Practice level: Identification and support to children with learning difficulties in early grade using Universal Design for Learning (UDL) strategy | 2019 | Ghana Education Service (GES) personnel |
| Policy level: Selected Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations (GFD) members trained on the Inclusive Education policy | 2018/2019 | GFD members |
| Policy/System and Practice levels: Data collection tool for the gathering of all relevant information for national directory on Inclusive Education | 2018/2019  | Personnel from Ghana Education Service, Social Welfare, Assessment Centres, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs, Health Centres |
| Policy & System levels: Establish/train national team to support the health/disability screening of learners at the pre-tertiary level. | 2019 | Personnel from Ghana Education Service, Ghana Health Service, etc. |
| **EDUCATION - SUPPORTED CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE** |
| Establish/train national cadre of trainers across the country on Universal Design for Learning (UDL) concept | 2020 (last quarter) | Ghana Education Service personnel |
| Establish/train national cadre of trainers across the country on implementation of Safe Schools Resource Pack (addressing issues on sexual harassment, bullying, corporal punishment) | 2020 (last quarter) | Ghana Education Service personnel |
| Establish/train national cadre of trainers across the country to support implementation of Reproductive Health Education (RHE) in special schools | 2021-2023 | Ghana Education Service personnel |
| HEALTH |
| Capacity building of 300 health care providers to deliver disability friendly services including orientation to the UNCRPD and the Ghana Disability Act | 2018 | Ghana Health Service |
| Review of key health care policies for disability inclusion and development of a Standard Operating Plan (SoP) for health care delivery for PWD | 2018 | Ghana Health Service |
| Capacity building of health care providers in sign language interpretation | 2019 | Ghana Health Service |

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| Please list the names of OPDs with whom the UNCT has an existing formal partnership.* Ghana Federation of Persons with Disability: A partnership with GFD was established (August 2019 -August 2020) to support sensitization activities of the Inclusive Education policy at community level. PwDs were engaged as role models to champion this activity
* National Council of Persons with Disability
* Adolescent PWD under the Ghana Federation of Disability Organisations
* Ulti-Leaf Foundation
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| Provide up to 3 examples of how the UNCT has systematically involved OPDs in activities of joint programs, e.g., planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. * A partnership with GFD was established (August 2019 -August 2020) to support sensitization activities of the Inclusive Education policy at community level. PwDs were engaged as role models to champion this activity.
* Socio-economic Response and Recovery Plan (SERRP) - The Ministry and the Ghana Federation of Disability were consulted on the impact of COVID 19 on the vulnerable population. The organization of Persons with Disability again participated in the validation meeting which ensured that the UNCT captured all their issues.
* Joint Work plans and UNSDP - these contain activities targeting PWDs
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| Provide a list of existing agreements between the UNCT and government bodies or ministries pertaining to disability inclusion. Provide an example of a partnership focused on disability inclusion between the UNCT, government, and civil society in the last three years.

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| **UNCT AGREEMENT ON DISABILITY INCLUSION (LAST THREE YEARS)** |
| Ministry of Education and Ghana Education Service | UNICEF/MoE/GES Joint Annual Work Plan: Output 16 (Improved capacity at national and sub-national level to support inclusive education and adolescent girls to progress and complete basic education). Linked to UNSDP 3.5.3,3.5.4, 4.2.1 |
| Local Government Network (LOGNET; A disability Friendly NGO. | UNDP/MOF/IMCC(LOGNET) Strengthening the capacities of PWDs on the new Local Governance Act of 2016  |
| Ghana Health Service (GHS) | UNDP/GHS COVID 19 Risk communication and community engagement targeting Persons with Disability |

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| List all entity and joint programs focused on disability inclusion that are currently being implemented or that concluded within the last 2 years. Please include title of program, joint UN participating organizations, main objective, and dates. **Agency :** UNDP**Title of program** : COVID 19 Risk communication and community engagement**Main objective** :To empower the most vulnerable including PWDs with the relevant skills and tools to make informed decisions and change behaviors to protect themselves and others from COVID 19 infection.**Dates:** June 2020-December 2020 |
| Please describe up to 3 notable achievements to advance disability inclusion at the country level where the UNCT has been involved. (Please limit to 1 paragraph each)EDUCATION AND HEALTH SECTORS1. Development, launch and implementation of Inclusive Education policy (2015, being reviewed)
2. Mainstreaming of gender and inclusion in education systems including the new four year B.Ed curriculum for tertiary institutions in Ghana and in , IDA-GPE supported Ghana’s Accountability Learning Outcome Programme (GALOP).
3. Development of Standard Operating Procedures for health care delivery for PWD
4. Translation of COVID-19 information and protocols into disability friendly versions such as Braille and sign language facilitating their engagement for the protection of their health rights
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## 3.2 Disability mainstreaming in national development processes

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| Please list timelines (start and end dates) for national development planning processes (e.g., SDG implementation, Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, socio-economic recovery plans, etc.). Please include timelines of processes that are completed, underway, and not yet started.1. The national development planning process led by the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) is a 4-year cycle, with the current Medium-term National Development Policy Framework spanning 2018 to 2021. The next one will be from 2022 to 2025.
2. Development of Ghana Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report 2019
3. Development of Medium Term Development plans at the sub-national level 2019
4. Socio-economic Response & Recovery Plan (18 months)
5. Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

The Medium-term National Development Policy Framework: Integration of Disability issues is reflected at the policy objectives, strategies and indicator levels. In the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Disability is covered under one of the action areas (Social investment in people) |
| Which of the completed processes listed above are disability inclusive? Please indicate the level at which disability inclusion is integrated, e.g., indicators, targets, financial plans, etc. Please attach plans or add links.Disability groups are involved in all consultations in the planning processes at national and sub-national levels. For the SDGs, PWDs were very instrumental in the consultative meeting on “Leaving no one behind” which was held across the country. Children with special needs were also engaged. |

1. Priorities (max 500 words)

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| What are the top 5 indicative priorities of the UNCT and partners evolving from this EOI process to advance the rights of persons with disabilities? Please link to the TORs and briefing on preconditions. Based on the situational analysis conducted for this EOI, most of which are outlined above, the following are the top five priorities.1. **Strengthen Legislations Policy and Programs:** support processes for the review and monitoring the implementation of the Act, development of the LI as well as review and implementation of existing policies, plans and programmes at the national and sub-national levels to ensure disability mainstreaming.
2. **Promote Equitable Access to Basic Services:** Some services for PWDs are not functional and remain inadequate in some settings including assessment centres, health facilities. Furthermore staff of relevant institutions to ensureeffective screening and assessment and provision of assistive devices is limited. In addition, support for the development of relevant SOPs and structures for effective service delivery to PWDs is inadequate.
3. **Create Economic Empowerment Opportunities** - Create opportunities for skills training for livelihood empowerment for persons with disability working with the OPDs. The value of technology will be explored in this process.
4. **Strengthen capacity of OPDs, Government Agencies and Civil society on issues of Disability and promotion of rights based approaches:** Strengthen the technical and advocacy capacities of the OPDs for effective engagement of key stakeholders on policy making and action planning. In addition, platforms for engagement will be created to facilitate OPDs participation, awareness creation and stigma reduction. Also, the capacities of MDAs and MMDAs as well as CSOs will be built on gender sensitive disability inclusion to facilitate effective mainstreaming of disability issues at national and sub-national levels and across sectors. Additionally, capacities of OPDs would be strengthened to negotiate, contribute to decision making and advocate on their own issues

 * Promoting demand side interventions that would empower persons with disabilities/various disability organisations etc. to demand accountability and ensure their rights and entitlements are secured. This can be achieved through the application of various social accountability approaches. There is an urgent need to review the purpose and scope of the DACF so that it aligns to a rights-based approach.
1. Strengthen systems for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data to facilitate disability inclusive planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and tracking results of the SDGs at national and sub-national level.
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# Opportunities (max 400 words)

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| Please highlight upcoming opportunities that may be relevant to UNPRPD MPTF program planning, e.g., potential co-funding with other donors, new national legislation or reforms, or contextual shifts, such as change in government. The review of Act 715 and guidelines is a great opportunity. The process to amend ACT 715 and also develop a Legislative Instrument to operalised the amended Act provides an opportunity to ensure full enforceability. The revision of the Persons with Disability Act among other things is to ensure that it complies with the UN CRPD. Ghana is about to go for an election on 7th December this year (2020); the two major parties have integrated disability issues into their manifesto, which presents an opportunity for advancing this cause in the ensuing years. The New Patriotic Party, which is the ruling government have for example indicated among other things the adoption of a Legislative Instrument for the Mental Health Act and Properly staff and resource the National Council on Persons Living With Disability (PLWD). The National Democratic Congress on the other hand had among other; the modernisation of educational facilities including the provision of customised ICT learning for PWDs as well as the creation of Disability desk at all MMDAs to facilitate the mainstreaming of Disability issues into local governance.UNICEF and STAR Ghana are supporting the review of Ghana’s Inclusive Education Policy. The review process will help consolidate efforts (including mainstreaming Universal Design for Learning (UDL) concept within the education system at all levels) and serve as an opportunity for widening partnership for collective impact. The upcoming social protection policy review process (in 2021) can serve as an opportunity to reflect and document how disability issues can be effectively mainstreamed into social protection design, delivery and coordination. UNESCO in the recent past has supported the government of Ghana to intensify its focus on disability inclusion in providing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for young people. This support focused on enhancing the capacities of relevant officials and facilitators as well as development of Education materials to support SRHR delivery for persons living with disabilities. The current ongoing O3 programme by UNESCO further seeks to highlight these efforts by supporting the review and finalisation of a National guideline for Reproductive Health Education which among others address the SRHR needs of persons living with disabilities. UNESCO through the Civic-Care project which is a youth led project through Ulti-Leaf Foundation has provided a platform for young people including those who are differently abled to be able to have a space to use their creative abilities to solve problems and or engage in important discussions relevant to young people with disabilities and offer ideas. In a youth-led action study undertaken by Ulti-Leaf Foundation on youth with disabilities in particular those with visual impairment who are out of school due to COVID19 and Down Syndrome, it was found that out most of them have been left behind in all interventions during this challenging time in communities. This has magnified the existing challenges faced by youth with disabilities before COVID19. Clearly, any recovery and building back plan must focus on youth with disabilities inclusion (through targeted interventions) |

# OPD involvement in EOI (max 300 words)

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| Please explain how OPDs were involved in the EOI process, including the names of OPDs that participated. 1. Following the UNCT invitation to participate in the EOI process, the RC’s office mobilized the UNCT to discuss the opportunity and strategize on the best approach to ensure inclusivity of all organizations and stakeholders. A technical team was constituted to develop a roadmap for consultation and identification of all groups in the process.
2. The technical group developed a comprehensive list of key actors and organizations in the country working on disability related issues across sectors. The list was broken down into government actors, civil society and private sector actors. The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection represented by the National Council for Persons with Disability and the Ghana Federation of Disability Organization were identified as critical to help shape the discussion. RCO reached out to these institutions to engage them in the consultation and they agreed to make presentations on the current context in the country which provided insights and shaped the discussion on the gaps, priorities and opportunities during the consultation.
3. Subsequently, an open invitation was circulated to all organizations of persons with disability identified to participate in the consultative meeting chaired by the RC and his office who shared the details of the call. This was followed by presentations from the National Council and the Federation and a plenary session. These were discussed extensively with gaps, priorities and suggestions on how the country could position itself to assist the vulnerable groups to ensure no one is left behind.
4. Subsequently, these organizations were engaged in the drafting, review process and endorsement of the EOI were sought.
5. Participating organizations are:
* **National Council on Persons with Disability**
* **Ghana Federation of Disability Organizations** (comprises of 9 member organizations)
* **Inclusion Ghana**
* **Local Government Network**
* **Resource Link Foundation, Ghana**
* **LOGNET**
* **Mental health Society of Ghana**
* **Ghana Blind Union**
* **Gender Centre for Empowering Development**
* **Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative**
* **Ghana Trades Union Congress**
* **Private Enterprise Federation**
* **Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice**
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# Contact information

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| ***RCO Contact*** ***Email: gifty.tetteh@one.un.org*** |
| ***Participating UN Organization that will receive the 1st tranche of funds:******Email contact person:* UNDP - Silke Hollander/ Email: silke.hollander@undp.org** |

# Letters of Endorsement from the government and national OPD

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| Please include a Letter of Endorsement from the government and a Letter of Endorsement from a national OPD when you email your completed EOI.If Letters of Endorsement are not possible, please explain the reasons below. |

1. Please refer to OECD report on States of Fragility.

\*<https://www.macrotrends.net/countries/GHA/ghana/gdp-per-capita> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)