



NAD – The Norwegian
Association of Disabled

**STRATEGY FOR NAD'S
INTERNATIONAL WORK
2018-2024**



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Who we are

The Norwegian Association of Disabled (NAD) is an independent human rights organisation of persons with disabilities working for equal rights and full participation for persons with disabilities. NAD is engaged in international development. We work to build the capacity of persons with disabilities and their organisations so that they are empowered to promote their human rights and to promote and support disability inclusion.

Our normative framework

An estimated 15 percent – or an estimated one billion - of the world's population live with a disability, with at least one in ten being children and 80 percent living in developing countries (WHO 2011). Persons with disabilities often live in poverty with little or no access to basic services or the possibility to earn an income. In developing countries, only one in ten persons with disabilities has access to assistive products (WHO 2018), only one in ten children with disabilities goes to school (GPE) and children with disabilities are four times as likely to experience violence than their non-disabled peers¹. We also know that the mortality rate of persons with disabilities is up to four times as high when disasters strike (Dhaka Declaration 2015). Historically, persons with disabilities have often been misrepresented and their voices silenced.

NAD's development efforts are rooted in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). The UNCRPD confirms that disability results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Our work is guided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which provide an ambitious agenda for development and focus on leaving no one behind.

NAD believes that international development cannot and will not be inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities without promoting the voices of persons with disabilities and placing Disabled Person's Organisations (DPOs) at the forefront. Persons with disabilities are the experts on their own life situation and should be at the centre of all decisions affecting them.

1 Assistive products: <http://www.who.int/disabilities/technology/gate/en/>; Access to education: <https://www.globalpartnership.org/data-and-results/education-data>, <http://www.who.int/disabilities/violence/en/> - this page also has some interesting data on sexual abuse, https://www.preventionweb.net/files/47093_dhakadeclaration.pdf

Strategic external goals for the period are:

1. DPO partners are strong Human Rights Advocates
2. DPO partners are respected and preferred partners for mainstream development actors, both government and non-government.
3. DPO partners are skilled advisors and advocates on SDGs and Rights Based Approaches².
4. DPO partners are well organized and have good governance, representation across disabilities and geographical diversity, and the ability to run their own projects.
5. DPOs and persons with disabilities are active participants in community-based initiatives.
6. NAD is recognised as an expert on mobilisation of DPOs in international development work.
7. NAD contributes actively to groom the next generation of disability rights activists through support to youth disability movements.

How we will work

Where possible, NAD supports networks (umbrellas) of DPOs representing a cross-disability perspective. NAD supports DPOs to become experts on the UNCRPD. In line with the UNCRPD, NAD will support DPOs in advocating for disability inclusion among government actors, as well as mainstream development and humanitarian actors. In this way, DPOs will pressure governments, as duty bearers, and other actors to deliver on their human rights obligations.

NAD will support the organisational development of DPOs in developing countries, as decades of experience show how important it is to support DPOs to become strong, active participants in their own societies. NAD will not support DPOs that provide service delivery which promotes segregation of persons with disabilities, thus promoting their exclusion from active participation in society. NAD will continue to develop methods and tools to work in an effective way with partners. NAD will prioritise supporting the younger generation of disability rights activists who represent the future and have the most to gain from positive change. Gender equality and anti-corruption are crosscutting themes in all of NAD's work.

2 Rights Based Approach: <http://hrbportal.org/faq/what-is-a-human-rights-based-approach>

To fulfil the potential of the UNCRPD, NAD will support DPOs as experts on disability inclusion in education and early childhood development, economic empowerment³ and disaster risk reduction. NAD support to DPOs in these three thematic areas includes strengthening their capacity in the UNCRPD and SDGs, advocacy, training/facilitation as well as monitoring and evaluation. NAD will support the development of models that promote disability mainstreaming, in particular at district and community level, and can be replicated in-country and/or adapted for implementation in other contexts.

Community Based Inclusive Development CBID, as reflected in the WHO CBR guidelines, is an approach to disability inclusion and mainstreaming with which NAD has extensive experience. If there is an interest among DPOs to advocate for this, NAD will support government actors and other stakeholders to develop, test and document new CBID models.

How we choose where to work

NAD follows some key principles when we decide where to work. These are that we only engage in a country after we have been invited to do so by a development actor. We do not engage in countries that do not have functioning DPOs. NAD also seeks to ensure learning across projects; therefore we often engage in countries that are geographically close to each other, so that our projects can benefit from a cluster approach.

The value we add

Being a DPO, NAD is a legitimate development actor representing persons with disabilities. We draw upon the knowledge and lived experience of our 15 000 members in Norway. Equally relevant, we apply lessons learned from the continuous organisational development that we engage in to continue to be a relevant advocate, advisor and promoter of the human rights of persons with disabilities in Norway and abroad.

NAD's international department employs experts on the rights based approach to development. To implement this strategy, NAD will further develop its internal capacity and competency on organisational development, the UNCRPD and disability inclusion in our three strategic priority areas (education and early childhood development, economic empowerment, and disaster risk reduction).

3 Read more about NAD's approach to disability inclusion in economic empowerment here: <https://isave-inclusion.com/>

In addition to supporting organisational development of our DPO partners in a strategic and empowering manner, NAD staff will develop good facilitation skills and be able to run thematic workshops and advise mainstream government and non-government development actors on disability inclusion.

To do this we will:

1. Plan for systematically building the capacity of NAD's staff in the above areas
2. Strengthen documentation of our work
3. Establish NAD as a key advisor on disability inclusion
4. Strengthen financial management and anti-corruption components in our programmes
5. Engage youth with disabilities in NAD's international work
6. Strengthen existing partnerships with relevant national and international actors and networks

Financial framework

NAD currently has a framework agreement (2016 – 2019) with the Norwegian Agency for development cooperation, NORAD. NAD aims to renew the framework agreement to support the implementation of the strategy.

During the strategic period from 2018 – 2024, NAD aims to increase its portfolio with other donors. Funding permitting, a short-term ambition is to open an office in the UK staffed by a 25% position to enable resource mobilization of EU and DFID funds.

