



Bridging the Gap

Final Report Narrative Section

September 2021















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AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT 





ACRONYMS

ADA: Austrian Development Agency AECID: Spanish Agency for Development and International Cooperation AICS: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation BtG-II: Bridging the Gap II **CEDAW:** Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women **CRPD:** Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities **DP: Development Practitioners EDD: European Disability Days EDF: European Disability Forum EU: European Union EUD: European Union Delegation** FIIAPP: International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and **Public Policies GEWE: Gender Equality and Women Protection IDA: International Disability Alliance** IDDC: International Disability and Development Consortium NCPD: National Council of People with Disabilities **OPD: Organizations of Personswith Disabilities** PAP: Poverty Alleviation Project in the states of Kassala and Red Sea PDCO: Physical Disability Challengers Organization **SAA: Social Analysis and Action** SG – CPDs: Secretary General of State Councils of Persons with Disabilities SWEEP: Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection VSLA: Village Saving and Loan Association **WEE: Women Economic Empowerment**













1. Introduction: purpose and content of the report This part is drafted by FIIAPP.













2. Project description

Project title:	Bridging the Gap II – Inclusive policies and services for equal rights of persons with disabilities				
Acronym:	BtG-II				
Grant Agreement number:	DCI-HUM/2016/379-983				
Project start date:	03/04/2017				
Project duration:	52 months				
Project coordinator:	Fundación Internacional e Iberoamericana de Administración y Políticas Públicas – FIIAPP Cooperación Española				
	Austrian Development Agency – ADA Agencia Española de Cooperación al Desarrollo – AECID Agenzia Italiana di Cooperazione allo				
Project partners:	Sviluppo – AICS European Disability Forum – EDF				
	International Disability and Development Consortium – IDDC				
Partner countries:	Republic of Ecuador Republic of Paraguay Republic of Burkina Faso Republic of the Sudan Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia				
Final beneficiaries and target groups:	National authorities Development Cooperation Practitioners Organization of persons with disabilities				
Total Budget (and EU support):	6,909,790 EUR (5,600,000 EUR - 81.04%)				
Start and end dates of the reporting period:	03/04/2017 – 02/08/2021				
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3. Executive summary

The main objective of Bridging the Gap-II has been promoting the full enjoyment of rights and the equal access to goods and services by persons with disabilities. In Sudan, the project focused on the development and implementation of policies and plans to guarantee the equal access to employment to persons with disabilities in line with CRPD article 27.

The root causes of social marginalization did not depend on the absence of norms, but among other factors, they lie on the lack of adequate policies and the absence of an enabling environment. Unequal access to education and labour market significantly undermines social inclusion and meaningful participation in public life as well as limitng the access to goods and public services. The data collected during the project confirms the global tendency for which it is clear that persons with disabilities face greater challenges and are often excluded from the social life as consequence of socioenvironmental barriers as well as economic and cultural conditions preventing an equal access to rights, goods and services. The attitude towards disability in Sudan is also negatively affected by socio-cultural factors related to the lack of awareness and knowledge, and to the social stigma and negative social perceptions related to disability. The persistent economic crisis and the pandemic have definitively aggravated the situation of the groups more exposed to vulnerabilities impacting also the project implementation with delays and reassessment of project activities.

Nonetheless, the project pursued successfully the Country Action Plan identifying some macro-actions as priorities:

- o Institutional support activities addressed to public sector officials and policy-makers;
- Strengthening the meaningful participation of the Organizations of Persons with Disabilities;
- Promoting the engagement of private sector and supporting synergies between public and private sector to guarantee equal access to work of persons with disabilities.
- Increasing awareness activities and advocacy campaigns both at institutional and community level;
- o Statistical research, data collection, research and monitoring activities;

This set of actions has generated a tangible change not only by disseminating and widespreading the topic of social inclusion among the members of national and international communities, but it has incepted as well a coordination effort dedicated to the inclusion of persons with disabilities within all the sectors of intervention. The change recorded was also in the development of specific skills and competences by Institutions and OPDs / CSOs. Above all, the project favored the collection of the necessary data and the revision of the national legislation promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and the respect of the international principles established by the CRPD.







Project results - Check against indicators (see attachments) 4.

Acti		Output indicat ors						Outco me indicat ors						
vity Id.	Reported activities as per Action Plan	es and Target values		Achieved outputs De		Data sources	referen	larget values			eved omes	Data sources		
		ces	Description (Unit)	Ν.	Ν.	%	SUDAN	ces	Description (Unit)	Ν.	N.	%		
8.1	Inclusion of disability as cross-cutting issue in the development cooperation programmes/actions funded/implemented by the International Community/EU Member States and/or by EU Delegation through participation in coordination meetings.	0	Number of coordination / sector-based meetings attended by the BtG II Country coordination team (International Community/EU level)	12	12	100	Project reports, meetings with EU	0	% of coordination / sector-based meetings / nititatives with EU Del Representatives and/or EU Members States in which disability is included as cross cutting issue, as a result of the project activities	100	100	100	EU Delegation, Sector-Based Meetings Minutes, Meetings and reports from initiatives involivng multiple stakeholders from the International Community.	
8.2	Workshops with the EU Delegation representatives / EU Member States / International Community on mainstreaming disability and human right based approach.		N. of Workshops organized on mainstreaming disability and human rights based approach	3	3	100	Delegation Officers	0	N. of existing initiatives / projects / programs supported by the international / European aid community in Sudan which nclude the disability approach as cross- cutting dimension, as a result of project activities	3	6	200	Qualitative research (project reports, NCPD reports and statistics, MLSW and KSMSD, minutes of meetings with public officers, international statistics, reports from DPOs/NGOs/CSOs/EUD, etc.)	
8.3	Final publication on the best practices and the results of the project at the Country level.	0	Official publications/studies carried out and published on mainstreaming disability in international cooperation in Sudan	1	1	100	Technical and financial internal reports, meeting with DPOs, NCPD and MWSS reports	nternal reports, neeting with DPOs, No outcome indicator NCPD and MWSS						
8.4	Establishment of collecting data units within the local branches of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities at the State level to	0	N. of civil servants trained on collecting data and reporting	18	20	111	List of participants, minutes of meeting with public sector officers, monitoring visits, technical and financial	0	N. of workshops on data and Infrastructure accessibility code for the branches of the	5	5		NCPD, MLSW (Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare), KSMSW (Khartourn	
	support the data collection and inclusion policies from state and federal ministries	0	Collecting data unit Local branches of NCPD equipped	2	2	100	project reports, minutees of meetings with MWSS and NCPD	0	NCPD				State Ministry of Social Welfare), IOs	
	Promotion research activity on the	0	N. of Studies/researches on the employment conditions of Persons with disabilities in Sudan	1	1	100	Financial and technical		Number of new public plans / policies /				Qualitative research (project reports, NCPD reports and statistics, MLSW and KSMSD, minutes of meetings with	
8.5	employment conditions of Persons with Disabilities in Sudan		N. of Persons with disabilities involved in the survey to assess the inclusiveness of public services and the impact of public policies.	1000	1000	100	projec reports, NCPD reports		nitiatives aimed at fostering the inclusion of PWD in the job market.	1	1	100	public officers, international statistics, reports from DPOs/NGOs/CSOs/EUD, etc.)	
8.6	The State Councils for Persons with Disability and the main public welfare offices are trained to support employability of PwD linking with OPDs network and support an	0	N. Public Offices represented in the trainings for supporting equal access to employment	24	23	96	Project reports, minutes of meetings with MWSS and NCPD, reports from	50	N. of PWD having improved access to the obmarket in result of improved public policies or as a consequence of the project	1000	910	91	Project reports, activity reports, monitoring, evaluation and statistic reports from the NCPD, MLSW and KSMSW, international statistics and	
	improved data collection	0	N. of civil servants trained to facilitate data collection	20	24	120			activities				KSMSW, international statistics and studies	
8.7		0	N. of workshop organized	3	2	67		0		6	4	67	Official reports and statistics	











	by the European Union							5						
	Workshop campaign to present the results of advocacy and awareness activities on data collection promoting employability of PwD to private companies and public-sector bodies.	0	N. of private companies involved in the workshops N. of public sector bodies involved in the	5 10	4	80 140	Minutes of meetings with public sector officers, project reports		N. of public offices collecting disaggregated data.					
	Support to the Council for Persons with Disabilities in carrying out – in partnership with the Ministry of Welfare – one research on 8.8 inclusiveness of public services and how	0	workshops N. of OPDs consulted in the design of inclusive public services.	10	12	120	Internal reports of NCPD and MWSS, minutes of meetings	0	N. of Focal Persons/Public Servants trained on inclusiveness of public services	100	104	104	Official statistics reports, NCPD	
	persons with disabilities benefit from the social security policy and services, with specific attention to the gender dimension	0	N. of reports/studies elaborated and published	1	1	100	with DPOs/CSOs,	according to the results of the research and asa consequence of project activities.		-		Reports, Publications		
1	Training for civil servants/disability focal points (employed in the Council for Persons with Disabilities, the Ministry of Welfare and the other interested Ministries) on best practices for the implementation of the CRPD,	0	N. of national civil servants and policy- makers trained	60	108	180	GENERAL SECRETARIES TRAINED Internal reports of NCPD and MWSS,							
	SDGs and in public policies aimed at improving social inclusion of persons with disabilities	0	N. of trainings organized	5	5	100	minutes of meetings with public officers List of participants							
	8.10 Five workshops for public sector officers,	0	N. of workshop on the infrastructural accessibility code organized	5	5	100	Internal reports of NCPD and MWSS,	0	N. of CSOs/OPDs engaged in policy making process, as a result of project activities	6	6	100	NCPD, MLSW, KSMSD, los, Union of persons with disabilities	
	^{6.10} OPDs/CSOs	0	N. of private companies participating to the workshop on accessible work environment	10	8	80	minutes of meetings with public officers		ac					
	Training on the promotion of CRPD, 8.11 leadership skills, communication skills and	0	N. of OPDs/CSOs members trained on the promotion of CRPD, leadership skills, communication skills and fundraising	50	110	220	Reports DPOs/CSOs: Activity Report shared							
	fundraising for OPDs/CSOs	0	N. of OPDs/NGOs regularly taking part in coordination meetings in presence of Sudanese institutions	6	6	100	and signed by NCPD/DPOs							
,	Production and delivery of multimedia sign 8.12 languages training to develop human capital of persons with disabilities	0	N. of Multimedia Events and Accessible languages and life skills training packages delivered	100	158	158	Delivery of the material	0	N. of new initiatives / projects proposed and led by national OPDs and CSOs which promote (self) employment of Persons with disabilities, as a result of project activities	2	4	200	Qualitative research (project reports, NCPD reports and statistics, MLSW and KSMSD, minutes of meetings with public officers, international statistics, reports from DPOs/NGOs/CSOs/EUD, etc.)	
	8.13 Promotion of Community Base Rehabilitation (CBR)programmes in Khartoum area	0	N. of localities reached by CBR programme in Khartoum	2	2	100	NCPD's internal reports, minutes of meetings with public officers, DPOs/CSOs reports, inquiries to the civil society	0	N. of Persons with disabilities reached out by OPDs and CSOs and informed about their employment rights, as a result of project activities	150	146	97	Project and activity reports	
	Vocational training and stages in agricultural 8.14 sector for women with disabilities in Gedaref State	0	N. of trainings organized	2	2	100	Project reports, DPOs reports: NCPD Report on "Developmnt for Women and Girls with Disabilites in Rural Areas - Gedaref State"	0	N. of Persons with disabilities reached out by professional trainings as a result of project activities	20	45		Project and activity reports: NCPD Report on "Developmnt for Women and Girls with Disabilites in Rural Areas - Gedaref State" - Attendees List of Trainees	











5. Description of the project activities carried out

During the inception phase (Year 1), the project focused on setting the background to start the implementation of the activities as defined in the Country Action Plan. AICS Khartoum recruited the project staff and agreed with the Federal Ministry of Welfare and Social Security the framework in which BtG-II would operate (Joint Agreement signed on April 2018). BtG-II started implementing the activities in Sudan during the second half of 2018.

The implementation of the CountryAction Plan was affected by two high-impact events that took place during the second and third year of the project, which determined socio-economic effects particularly relevant for persons with disabilities. The reference here is to the Sudanese Revolution that began in December 2018, causing a significant change in the structure and policies of the State, and the Sars-Cov2 Pandemic, on whose impacts a specific paragraph is dedicated in this chapter. The relationships built with OPDs/CSOs and with the State representatives at all levels have been affected by the immediate effects of the revolution and by the consequent period of extreme instability and violence, ended in August 2019 with a new transitional constitutional agreement between the national army and the paramilitary forces on one side and the revolutionary forces on the other. Such agreement led to the appointment of a transitional presidential council and the creation of a new government of technocrats tasked with very ambitious reforms to carry out before the planned democratic elections in 2022.

Nonetheless, the BtG-II staff was able to implement the activities planned in the country action with a good level of success, in spite of the notably different role of the new institutions in Sudan and its effect on the project's partners and stakeholders.

BtG-II adapted the programme implementation to the changed context situation, by taking the opportunity to extend the terms of some actions (project addendum at global level and extension of on going sub-grant contrcts in Sudan) and using the flexibility granted by the European Commission for procedures in a context of clear economic and institutional fragility. Furthermore, upon programme start, BtG-II could establish a significant collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Welfare of Social Security (currently named Ministry of Social Development).

The programme implementation provided the opportunity to introduce measures supporting the rights of persons with disabilities at the regulatory level and in the practice of civil society. A notable example is the support given to National Council of Persons with Disabilities in order to draft the Report on the 10-year anniversary of implementation of the CRPD in Sudan (2009-201) and the inception of the review and reform process of the entire Sudanese legislation to encourage the inclusion and the full enforcement of the rights established in the CRPD, as well as to strengthen the NCPD as the coordinating institution for public actions supporting the rights of persons with disabilities. BtG-II supported directly the NCPD









with the dedicated technical assistance of a national expert for ten months (co-financed by AICS TADMEEN project). The Council, as focal partner of BtG-II initiative, answered by planning and implementing a range of activities promoting the mainstreaming of the CRPD principles among Institutions and Organizations, pushing for awareness and developing skills on collecting disability disaggregated data, advocating the equal access to employment opportunities within the public and private sectors, supporting inclusive polices on access to basic services and promote the meaningful participation of OPDs in Sudan.

Parallel but separate mention it is worth underlining the activities carried out with and towards the international community. In the course of the aforementioned events, it is clear that the possibility of developing joint actions has undergone slowdowns due to restrictions. In spite of the political unrest and the Pandemic, the project was not suspended, its implementation continued by taking advantage of the technological options available (e.g. online events) and always stimulating the community, so as to allow the realization of joint actions and the inclusion of BtG-II themes in different projects and events. This result was favored by the creation of a coordination network of the international community on the subject, like the Group of Friends of Persons with Disability (GFPD) and the participation to international coordination groups such as the thematic table on rural development promoted by Sudan International Partners Forum (SIPF). Thanks to the initiative of the Embassy of Italy in Sudan, BtG-II promoted and coordinated the commitment effort of the national and international institutions up to the definition of an action plan engaging the participants towards the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities. The Group did not generate direct aid but started a mapping exercise of the interventions (type, duration, scope, location, etc.) setting up the synergic coordination of resources for the rights of persons with disabilities.

Finally, a relatively strong constraint of the project relates to the statistical research, data collection, thematic research and monitoring activities. The secondary data available during the first phase could not be considered a reliable source of baseline in consideration of data obsolescence and the weak methodological approach of the last available National Census from 2008. As a consequence, baselines were, in most cases, set at zero because of this difficulty. No new official disaggregated data on disability were published until 2018. Tackling the overall disability data weaknesses of the country was then one of the objectives of BtG-II Sudan: the programme could indeed manage to support NCPD and OPDs in data collection and analysis.

The project activities implemented during the reporting period are hereunder described with respective outcomes.















Outcome 1: "Increased awareness and coordination of international partners concerning the mainstreaming disability approach in development cooperation"

Year 2 - 2018/2019

In **November 2018**: after the inception phase activities, follow up meetings were organized in order to assess priorities with the main counterparts (EUD, NCPD, OPDs) representatives. **December 2018**: With regard to the development practitioners, BtG-II promoted the "**internal mainstreaming**" of the disability perspective within the ongoing programs in AICS Khartoum. A meeting with all the programs' staff was organized; all Departments attended with proficient inputs on promoting equal rights for persons with disabilities. As a result, three projects not specifically targeting disability adopted a specific attention on including participants with disabilities and assessing the accessibility of the overall intervention.

In the same year, in **December 3rd**, BtG-II celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disability. Together with OVCI, AICS, the Embassy of Italy and the Embassy of Spain, organizing an event at Khartoum University open to institution representatives and civil society. The event aimed at sensitizing the participants on the rights of persons with disabilities and discuss about social inclusion.

The following year, in **March 2019**, BtG-II supported the initiative of AICS and the Embassy of Italy to create a Group of Friends of Persons with Disabilities (GFPD). Such initiative aimed at promoting a common "space" where all the interested stakeholders could meet and share information and strategies on supporting inclusion and equal rights.

Year 3 - 2019/2020

During the third year, in **September 2019**, as one of the most immediate achievements of the networking effort, the Group of Friends of Persons with Disabilities (GFPD) was officially launched by AICS and the Embassy of Italy in Sudan. During the launch, the participants agreed to extend the participation and meet on a periodic basis for sharing experiences and opportunities in support of the rights of persons with disabilities in Sudan. The first official meeting, hosted by the Embassy of Spain in Sudan, further investigated the possibility to involve the humanitarian sector as well as the development initiatives broadening the scope of the discussion on supporting the rights of persons with disabilities in line with the CRPD principles. Two months later, during **December 2019** BtG-II participated to the thematic meetings of the some of the coordination tale in place during the aftermath of the revolution (SIPF, DDS).

February 2020 - March 2020 - The projects from AICS Khartoum office, BtG-II and Dictorna agreed on cooperating for the rehabilitation of a health centre in Khartoum City operating with a participated approach aiming to increase the inclusion of persons with different disabilities in a fully participated process. Aim of the activity was to define and realize a Family Health Centre, completely accessible and able to respond as a hub for the "social needs" of the visitors.









Furthermore, the cooperation with the Poverty Alleviation Project - PAP managed to amend the project documents and allocate resources with specific reference to activities including persons with disabilities in the eastern states. As result of this collaboration, the Red-Sea council of persons with disabilities (RS-CPD) selected 10 groups of women with disabilities to participate to training on rural skills facilitated by experienced local organization under the supervision of PAP's staff.

Moreover, BtG-II collaborated with other international Partners, such as UNIDO and GIZ, in order to support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in TVET programs in both Khartoum and South Darfur States. Both programs were suggested by the EU Delegation (as EU funded programs) and, thank to the EUD coordination, it was possible to find common agreements to collaborate on increasing the inclusion of their TVET program for trainees with disabilities.

Year 4 – 2020/2021

The project commitment during the last year of implementation focused on **June 2020**: As result of the "internal mainstreaming" commitment, the EU Operational Committee approved the document T05-EUTF-HOA-SD-96, prepared by AICS Khartoum, in which the Support to Economic Opportunities for Youth and Women with Disability is included as "Significant Objective", expressing specific inspiration to BtG- II initiative.

September 2020: The project staff gave on line contributions to One Planet Summit, Green Deal, Great Green Wall events. BtG-II and AICS contributed to inform DG DEVCO through the Sudan EU Delegation on actions contributing to the Great Green Wall; in particular, BtG-II supported the mainstreaming of the rights of persons with disabilities in one of AICS main actions reported.

March 2021: While the GFPD work proceeded, a Technical Working Group has been created with an on-line consultation aiming with the objective of mapping initiatives supporting the rights of persons with disability and discuss related topics.

Outcome 2: "Enhanced capacity of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities and the Ministry of Welfare to collect disaggregated data, to increase awareness on infrastructure accessibility, as well as to develop inclusive social services and to promote the equal access to work of persons with disabilities in line with the CRPD art 27".

Year 2 – 2018/2019

In **May 2018**, two experts from the Italian Network for Disability and Development (RIDS) facilitated a series of initial workshops informing the representatives of Public Institutions and OPDs about principles of the CRPD and Human Rights Based Approach.

Later on, during **January and February 2019**, the project organized in collaboration with the NCPD, 2 Workshops on Disability Data Collection using the Washington Group







Questions hve been held in Khrtoum involving 65 participants from relevant public offices and unions of persons with disability with a session dedicated to the Central Bureau of Statistics of Sudan.

In **February - December 2019** BtG-II supported the NCPD with a **dedicated Technical Assistance** facilitating the preparation and implementation of the activities planned with BtG-II, organized NCPD staff training and assisting the coordination activities. The TA supported also the drafting of the 10 years report on the implementation of the CRPD in Sudan.

During **March 2019** a workshop session was held with representatives of the **National Human Rights Commission NHRC on monitoring and Implementation of the CRPD**, were organized in line with the action in support of public institutions. On the same point 2 workshops were realized on promoting the right to inclusive and decent work and targeting both public and private sectors

Year 3 - 2019/2020

The third year started with the Institutional commitment towards the validation of the **10** Years Report on Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Sudan (July 2019) with 68 representatives of OPDs and Focal Points from public offices met with the NCPD in order to validate a comprehensive report on the implementation of the CRPD in Sudan during the last 10 years, the period from April 2009 – April 2019. The document will be ultimately presented and endorsed by the cabinet of ministers on March 2020 with the resolution No. 178/2020.

As part of the project focus on mainstreaming gender equality and women empowerment, on **the project organized with the coordination of the** NCPD **3 Vocational Training workshops for Women with Disability in Kordofan States (July 2019).** The workshops were organized with the support of local expert trainers to promote inclusive training opportunities of women with disabilities in conflict affected areas. A total of 110 women with disabilities from 39 localities of the three Kordofan states participated to awareness and training sessions on small crafting and dairy production according to the specificity of each state.

On August and September 2019- BtG-II supported a first assessment on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Vocational Training and Entrepreneurship Centers (VTECs) in Khartoum State, Sudan. Within the cooperation agreement between Btg-II and UNIDO, under the coordination of the NCPD, the Project supported an assessment on the level of accessibility in the EU funded TVET program "Employment and Entrepreneurship Development for Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrant Youth and Host Communities in Khartoum State (EEDK-RDPP)". Objective of the activity was to assess the level of accessibility in different training programs. Eleven members representing OPDs and disability focal points at public offices with expertise in physical accessibility and inclusive education conducted the evaluation at the four VTECs. Issues related to different aspects were identified and reported as well as suggestion for increasing the inclusion of persons with disabilities at the vocational centers. The experts' committee produced a final report















shared with AICS and UNIDO with issues and recommendations for an inclusive TVET offer. As result of the activity and under the recommendation of the EU Delegation, UNIDO has set a new objective for enrolling at least 10% of trainees with disabilities.

From December 2019 to March 2020 a series of workshops have been realized in collaboration with the NCPD, in order to promote the Right to Social Protection and the Right to Decent Work. The aim was to promote a change from traditional Disability Welfare to Social Inclusion and to to ensure access of persons with disabilities to open, inclusive and accessible employment in the mainstream labor market. Participants from main public institutions and representatives of the Civil Society, attended the workshop aimed to enhance inclusive-social protection policies. and to create a conducive environment for equal access to employment in both public and private sector.

Year 4 - 2020/2021

The project commitment on Institutiional building during the fourth year was inevitably affected by the new institutional asset of the Country and by the Pandemc crisis, so the main effort focused on consolidating and capitilizing the project results. On **June 2020: - the Social Assessment of theSamir Family Health Centre Rehabilitation Project was Finalized,** with the collaboration of the Khartoum State Council of Persons with Disabilities, Sudan Disability Network and local revlutionary councils. 637 persons surveied of which 124 reported with impairments.

During September 2020- a **Workshop with NCPD on inclusive access to higher education** was realised with the participation of MoLSD andMinistry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, UNESCO and representatives of main Universities. The workshop aimed at highlighting the nexus within Accessible and Inclusive Higher education and high employability of persons with disabilities.

Lastly, the project concluded a **Research Study on inclusion of persons with dsabilities** in labour policies in Khartoum State on March- August2021 - together with the inception study on inclusive access to financial opportunities in Gederf state. The two actions intended to offer a current ovierview of the two locations addressed by the project and provide reccomendations for improving policies and economic opportunitie as capitalization fo the project's achievements.

Outcome 3: "CSOs/OPDs engagement in policy making process is improved and their capacity to promote social inclusion of persons with disabilities is strengthened".

Year 2 - 2018/2019

Since the beginning of the implementation the project focused on supporting the participation of women with disabilities. In **May 2018:** an organization of Women with Disability living in rural areas in Gedaref State was identified for a first Workshop on Agricultural Skills and micro-business management. The workshop lasted 5 days and was









managed by the organization of Women and Children with Disability and the local Council of Persons with Disability (CPD) with the support of the National Council of Persons with Disability (NCPD). Facilitated by a national expert, 35 women participated to the training sessions and earned a final certificate of attendance.

Later on in **November 2018**: following a successful monitoring visit, the project decided to proceed with a second phase aiming to provide sustainability to the achievements obtained during the previous training and provided with a **Training on managing Cooperative forms of association for Women with Disability in rural areas in March 2019.** The training closed with the creation and official registration of a Women's cooperative aiming to promote networking, support its members and recruit new ones.

Following this example, this approach was mainstreamed across AICS projects in Red Sea where 30 women with disabilities were trained on agroskills and micro business in collaboration with State Ministry of Agriculture and RS-CPD.

During **December 2018 the rpject initiated the information and training sessions in support to the meaningful participation of OPDS** – directly supporting the National Union of Persons with Physical Disability (SNUPD) and the National Union of Visual Disability (SNUVD) on CRPD principles, elements of participation and representativity

At the same time the project incepted the infosharing sessions preparatory for the sub-grants call for proposals. In **December 2018 - March 2019**

Following the applicable internal procedures, AICS contacted and invited all interested OPDs to submit project proposals funded by **BtG-II financial support to third parties (sub-grant mechanism)**. Four proposals were selected from five OPDs (see next session for a full description):

- Sudanese National Union of Deaf persons SNUD, "Enhancing equal access to employment of deaf persons"
- Sudanese Autism Organization SAO in consortium with Khartoum State Union of Persons with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disability, *"Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual and Psychosocial Disability"*
- Physical Disability Challenges Organization PDCO, *"Equal access to employment for Women with Disability"*
- Sudanese National Association of the Blind, *"Promotion of Blind/Visually Impaired People Rights to Work"*

Year 3 - 2019/2020

During the period from **March 2019 to March 2020**, the project has released the funds for the "financial support to third parties" to the selected OPDs submitting all the necessary requirements to start implementing their project proposals:

Sudanese National Union of the Deaf - Enhancing equal access to employment for persons with hearing impairment.

DEVELOPMENT











The action targeted rights-holders from all the local organizations of deaf people. After signing the contract in March, the critical socio-political situation in the country delayed the inception of the project activities until August 2019. Since then the project delivered 54 training packages in three sessions, targeting men and women representatives of local deaf organizations. The training packages aimed at improving skills on management and leadership (Training package 1); Monitoring, planning and coordination for enhanced access to employment of deaf persons (Training package 2); Advocacy, Lobbying and legislations (Training package 3). The second component of the project will focus on sign language packages and Training of Trainers (ToT) in 5 states.

Physical Disability Challenges Organization - Equal Access to Employment for Women with Disabilities

The project aimed to train women with disabilities on vocational skills in order to increase their employment and self-employment opportunities. Beneficiaries were selected from different age and coming from different background (rural-urban, literate-illiterate, family context-no family context). An important component of the training was devoted to raising awareness on disability rights. It comprised also sessions about the gender role in the community development, and the role of women participation in community development. As result of the activities, the Project delivered the following:

- 27 women with disabilities trained in leathering making and local Sudanese perfume making in Khartoum State

- 27 women with disabilities trained in dairy products, soap, and detergent making which covered trainees from two localities in South Darfur

- 25 women with disabilities trained in Soap and Detergent making, coming from three localities in at Al-Jazirah State.

Sudanese Autism Organization - Empowerment for Person with Intellectual and Psychological Disability

The project aimed to raise awareness and to influence attitudes and practices that do not consider disability as part of the human diversity. For this reason, the awareness campaign aims to reform legislations, strategies and policies to ensure opportunities on equal access for persons with disabilities to enjoy full rights.

Specific attention was dedicated to improve the economic empowerment through life-skill training for persons with intellectual disabilities and to restore self-confidence, self-esteem and sense of productivity. The advocacy campaigns targeting law, strategy, and policy makers; altering societal perceptions and attitudes; enhancing, political, and economic (employment) participation and access to services and employment. The activity comprised three strategic meetings with relevant authorities and private sectors representatives. The awareness raising campaign included four articles in newspapers, ten radio programs, five TV programs and three consultation cultural and awareness forums. Regarding the vocational training, **86 trainees** were registered and distributed in the different vocation training departments Carpentry, Computer/software, Office basic admin / library work,















packaging, bakery, art & handcraft, and Gardening. Out of 86 trainees, **55 completed the courses and graduated** (17 females and 38 male). In order to support job inclusion, **64 cadres** from private and government institutions were trained in job coaching for persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities.

Furthermore, BtG-II followed up the activities implemented in Gedaref and encouraged the possible cooperation with the association of women with disabilities in the neighboring state of Kassala.

September- November 2019: Follow up of Training activities in Rural Development and Cooperative Management for the organization of Women with Disabilities in Gedaref State. The project realized a follow up mission to Gedaref supported by the NCPD and with the technical assistance of a national expert on social inclusion and with a field mission with the Country Coordinator and the Project Director (in November). The consultant organized two focus group discussions on project management and microfinance, addressing as well the cooperative management workshops; 16 women with disabilities participated to the FGD, talking about the challenges and opportunities for strengthening economic activities for women with disabilities. The results of this activity highlighted the positive effects of the training sessions, with most of the participants having improved their economic position although still lacking stabilization in terms of planning and sustainability. The final recommendations underlined the need for cooperatives of woman with disabilities to deal more with national organizations or with interested actors in the private sector in order to ensuring an improved access to markets, while still conducting their important work on awareness and advocacy for the rights of persons with disabilities. During the field monitoring visit, the representatives of women with disability organization of Gedaref (WwD-Gedaref) informed BtG-II that after the revolution, the democratic movement selected them (together with another CSO from Khartoum State) for representing the civil society organizations at the national consultative forum. They remarked the importance of such achievement considering the low number of official organizations of women with disabilities in the country and the opportunity to bring a positive example.

Year 4 - 2020/2021

During the last year, outcome three has seen the conclusion of the 4 sub-grants funded initiatives supporting inclusive access to employment for persons with disabilities. Furhtermore the project supported the activity of Inclusive Access to the Democratic Process in Red Sea facilitated by the Sudan Social Development Organization. This activity aimed at promoting and traini the organization of persons with disabilities in order to activiely participated to the creation process of the new constitutional assembly.

On of the project's last activities referred to - amultimedia campaign on inclusive and accessible response to Covid-19, delivered between June 2020 and March 2021 with 8







radio programs, 10 public speaking annuouncments and 4 video on Covid-19 response with special attention to persons with disabilities.

Impact of covid pandemic

In Sudan, the pandemic combined its effects with the persisting crisis due to socio-economic fragility and the ongoing reform process (which was actually tightening its terms, upon project completion). The already difficoult general living conditions in the country coupled with the abrupt changes imposed by the state reform process (e.g. subsidies elimination for basic commodities like flour, fuel kitchen gas) further worsened the living conditions of the population during the beginning of the pandemic. Because of that, heavy limitations were imposed on the implementation of many activities during the first two months (April-May 2020). After a complete lockdown could not be imposed, as it required specific measures and resources to compensate the loss of income for people who depend on daily work; a curfew was imposed, from 8 pm to 6 am. Schools and markets were closed, gatherings prohibited, and public transport to the states was banned.

Meetings and contacts with the members of the international community and between BtG-II and public bodies and organizations were initially interrupted, later in 2020, making the direct collaboration quite difficult, in particular for the organisation of events, access to offices, training, meetings, etc.

Through the networks generated in the previous months, the coordination and integration activities between projects of the international community continued in remote until the end of the restrictions or, in any case, of the activities themselves. As far as civil society organizations are concerned, they suffered significant restrictions in their activities as the interventions included training (sometimes combined with education) and the provision of socially useful services, all sectors affected by closures of the first phase. The direct contacts with BtG-II were no longer possible at the beginning and financing procedures also slowed down for various reasons, including the closure of the banking system. BtG-II therefore proposed an extension of the contracts so as to let the organizations conclude all the activities envisaged in the plan by 2021. In particular, it should be noted that the organizations not only benefited from the extension of their project duration but also from an addendum to the contribution of approximately 20% of the amount granted, partially compensating for the loss of purchasing power due to the economic crisis and the inflation out of control (+ 363% from April 2020 to April 2021). With the disbursement of the residual resources by the project, the organizations gradually reactivated, completing the planned activities and developing autonomous initiatives as response to the Pandemic dedicated to persons with disabilities.t demonstrating a good evolution in the sense of organization and awareness of their abilities. This is a particularly important result achieved by the Organizations, if we consider the figures hereunder (source World Bank December 2020) highlighing how much the sudanese population, and therefore also BtG-II final beneficiaries, had been hit by the pandemic:

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IDDC

FOR DEVELOPMENT







- More than 20% of the households were unable to buy bread and cereals as well as milk and milk products as price increases were felt by most households. For all staples, households headed by females are more likely to be affected.
- About 47% of households reported being worried about having enough food to eat, and many modified their eating habits. Households headed by females are significantly more worried about not having enough food to eat (69 % compared to 49 % male headed households
- Disruption of children's access to education is very high. Only 9% of the households with children who attended school before the outbreak of COVID-19 (i.e. half of all households) were engaged in learning activities during school closures due to COVID-19.
- About 20% of the households could not access a financial institution (ATM, bank, or mobile money) when needed due to banks' closure, movement limitation, and fear of contracting coronavirus.
- About 67% of the people who worked before the COVID-19 lockdown still had not returned to work by June/July 2020. This is mainly comprised of self-employed people or business owners.
- Social assistance programs were non-existent, with only 3% of households reporting receiving social assistance of any kind.

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		Referring to outcome	
	Oc. 1 - Mainstreaming of disability in international cooperation	Oc. 2 - Strenghtening inclusive public policies	Oc. 3 Reinforcing OPDs and CSOs
	8.1	8.4	8.11
Sudan	1-GFPD Meetings Minutes (5)2-SIPF Agriculture Minutes (1)3-DDS Refresc SC Minutes (5)4-GFPD Technical WG	 1-Report Data Collection Workshop CBS 24-02-2019 2-Final Report Social Assessment 3-Disability-Data Collection Units workshop-report 17-01-2019 	 1-AICS - Report BtGII Mainstreaming CRPD Principles final 1-Report on Capacity Building for SNUPD 1-Report_ Visually Disabled Workshop 2-TA NCPD Final Report
	8.2	8.5	8.12
	 1-UNIDO Final Report on Inclusion in VTCs 2-AICS - Report BtGII Mainstreaming CRPD Principles 3-BtGII - Dictorna Social Assessment Report Inclusive access to health 	1-Final Document Research study inclusion labour market and policies khartoum	1-SNUD Reports, SAO Interim Report, PDCO Interim Narrative Report
	8.3	8.6	8.13
	Draft publication to be included in AICS social protection report	1- Workshops Promoting right to work and employment of persons with disabilities in public and private sectors – workshops' reports	1- Final Report Samir Centre Social Assessment, SAO+PDCO Final Report
	Research Study - Inclusion of persons with disabilities in EU development cooperation	 8.7 1- Workshop reports Promoting right to work in private sector 3-Report on how to promote, protect and realize the right to work for persons with disabilities 	8.14 1-Final Report Rural Development Gedaref - Report_ Cooperative Association Management_Gedarif State
		 8.8 1-TA NCPD Final Report 2- Sudan CRPD 10 Years Anniversary Report 	











	8.9	
	1-2 - AICS - Report BtGII Mainstreaming CRPD	
	Principles final	
	1-2 - Workshop Report_Capacity Building for	
	Secretaries General of State Councils of Persons	
	with Disabilities	
	1-2 - Worksop Report Capacity Building_Disability Focal Points and National Human Rights	
	Commission NHRC	
	1-2 - Report on workshop of Social Protection	
	8.10	
	1- 1- Workshop on Capacity Building for SNUPD	
	 Workshop on capacity building for Visually Disabled Persons 	
	 Workhop on Inclusive WASH (infrastructure and services accessibility) 	
	 Workshop on Inclusive Design - Samir NCPD workshop - Min of Infrastructure (TA Support) 	
	2- Workshop report on Promoting the right to work and employment of persons with disabilities in private sector	

Finalized and published on e-library

Finalized but NOT published on e-library







6. Communication and visibility

The BtG-II Sudan country team applied the principles of the overall project Communication and Visibility Strategy which aimed to ensure proper circulation of information among BtG-II Sudan project partners and to external stakeholders in support of project implementation. Country Strategy included external and internal levels of communication. The external communication strategy was based on the engagement of the local civil society organizations as key actors for communication and increasing awareness activities in order to reach the highest number of direct and indirect beneficiaries. Concerning the knowledge management, the strategy involved the Sudanese institutions both at the local and federal level in order to spread the best practices identified during the implementation. To disseminate the project objectives, activities and results, also all the trainings and workshop have been an opportunity to increase the visibility of the program, ensuring visibility of EU and of the implementing partners. The Sudanese partners have been involved in order to increase the ownership of the project.

The internal communication ensured the constant information of EU Delegation in Sudan and have been in line with the overall communication flow designed at global level of the program. BtG-II Sudan through its communication initiatives and products transmitted the strategic vision of inclusion based on the principles of CRPD while reinforcing the role of the EU as founder and prominent Institution together with its Member Stateson advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities in international cooperation.The Project's communication in Sudan contributed to the communication objective of the global project by sending periodic news flashes, promoting accessible and inlusive communication amongall the communication and visibility materials in accessible languages.

BtG-II Sudan country staff actively participated at national and regional events promoting inclusion and raising awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities. When possible BtG-II Sudan staff also attended international events on disability for exchanging experiences, building the teams' capacity and strengthen networking.

Noteworthy for its system importance is the work carried out in applying the guidelines on visual identity and on the form of communication in general; non-trivial work and itself containing the principles of inclusion precisely to facilitate access and dissemination of the tools developed by the process not only outside it in general, but in particular towards the beneficiaries themselves. The manual designed to establish the basic principles to be applied to the entire range of communication materials by all the bodies and organizations involved in the project have been systematically applied and disseminted in Sudan. It has been essential to follow all the usage rules in order to get a coherent and recognisable image that reflects the global objectives of BtG-II within the international community and the local stakeholders.







A list describing the communication and visibility activities carried on at country level is following:

Launch event - Kassala	February 2018
Workshop agricultural skills for women with	March 2018
disabilities in Gedaref – "Certificate Ceremony"	
Participation EU-Days - Khartoum	March 2018
Training on CRPD Principles – Certificate Ceremony	April 2018
International Disability Day – Khartoum	December 2018
Workshop Call for proposal sub-grants – media	March 2019
presentation	
Particiaption to BtG Stakeholder's seminar -	April and December 2019
Bruxelles	
Participation as panellist to conference "Essere	April 2019
Persona"- Milano	
Support to actors with disabilitis at Social Theatre	March-September 2019
Activity – Khartoum	
Participation to ILO Global Business and Disability	November 2019
Network - Geneva	
Official Launch Group of Friends of Persons with	November 2019
Disabilities – Khartoum	
Participation to sensitization event OVCI – Italian	January 2020
Emabssy - Khartoum	
Participation International Women Day - Khartoum	March 2020
Inclusive Covid-19 Response multiple media	May 2020
campaign	
Presentation SUDO inclusive democratic process -	September 2020
Khartoum	
Capitalization and restitution with project partners	February 2021
and participants	
Presentation Legislative Reform Sudan - Kahrtoum	August 2021

7. Difficulties encountered and measures undertaken to overcome them (and eventual project changes)

The challenges met on the implementation of the Country Action Plan clearly refer on a general level to the events previously described. The revolution and the pandemic modified the context of the intervention framework that has worsened or – at least- confirmed the risks identified in the planning phase. Limitations have involved internal and external processes of the project' partnership.

In Sudan, the risk of a lacking institutional support and a general weakness on participation opportunities of the other stakeholders (e.g. NCPD, Unions, OPDs, OSCs), proved to be manageable mostly through careful involvement and coordination (signing of protocols of shared action) of the interested stakeholders. It was clear that the political reforms and the related changes in the ministries has resulted in rebuilding the relations and reaffirming







mutual commitments. It is also true that BtG-II contacts with focal persons at institutional level tended to privilege technical units which are less affected by political change. Such approach was pursued since the beginning as a valuable key for providing sustainable capacity building in institutions characterized by a very high turnover. In order to ensure a smooth project, the Country Team carried out activities simultaneously under all three outcomes; thus- in case of delays- the project efforts could easily shift focus on the more available counterpart at the moment.

The same approach was also useful to overcome the lack of collaboration of the final beneficiaries of the activities (in particular the host communities) and therefore of ownership of the project results. The participatory model of information and involvement in the actions on the territory had made it possible to participate to the rehabilitation of physical structures (e.g. health center) or services (e.g. courses) that were truly centered on the needs expressed by the local communities, ensuring their sustainability.

Regarding the relation NCPD-OPDs the close collaboration between the National Council and the Unions was noticed and compared to the one with other civil society organizations it has provoqued some sort of competition. BtG-II tried to foster dialogue and collaboration, favoring the consultation of organizations by the Council supporting the discussion toward a decisive step in this sense that would be the establishment of aNational OPDs' Federation as envisaged by the CRPD.

Beside the delays then, no relevant activity was deleted or heavily modified because of the situation in the country in the last three years. No significant deviation in the Country Action Plan was then necessary, beyond the request for an extension of the project implementation duration and the flexibility in the funds allocation. It was necessary infact to amend the budget in order to respond more effectively to the conditions emerged during the project implementation. One of the most important changes was related to the amount for the grant that resulted inappropriate considered the local context. The significant problem concerns the fact that at point of time in which the grant to local organizations was disbursed for the most part (80%), the purchasing capacity of the agreed amount was radically and rapidly eroded by the unstable macroeconomic situation of the country (inflation in primis) and the objectives resulted no longer affordable. In fact, there is no system that is always up-to-date on the real purchase value of the currency in very fragile and unstable contexts, unless the change of the disbursement procedures. The addendum to organization's budget (20% of the total value added to the lasting 20% grant amount) succeeded in overcoming this limit. Finally, some sub-grants budget lines were also diverted to cover the cost of experts for internall staff training in order to enhance their capacity to address international funding.

Another important difficulty related to understanding the local context and identifying key stakeholders. In fact, working gender equality and women empowerment requires a deep understanding of the cultural and social mechanisms as well as support to key stakeholders, starting with girls and women with disabilities themselves, with the aim to avoid, or mitigate, possible resistances.







Some specific examples of measures taken to address this issue are the following:

- the Sudanese Autism Organization understood, during the implementation of the project activities, that social norms against women and girls with disabilities were undermining their participation in trainings and workshops sothey decided to disseminate specific messages on the importance of women's economic independence and spread them via radio every week for two months. They also targeted other disability centres and raised awareness in families and communities on the importance to support women and girls with disabilities to access capacity building and income generating opportunities.
- Immediately after the start of a vocational training workshop in Kordofan State, four • women with disabilities were denied by their families to travel to the capital to participate in the training, due to mistrust and negative attitudes towards women with disabilities. The State Council of Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with the local women with disability association, started the process of creation of a local branch of the association, and mobilized women with disabilities at local level to conduct home visits to convince the families to support the four women to attend the training. In general, BtG-II facilitated the participation of women and girls with disabilities from rural areas by providing individual support such as personal assistants, and organised trainings in remote localities to reach women with disabilities who are not allowed to move due to social constraints. Furthermore, consultative workshops for government officials, OPDs and other stakeholder on inclusion of disability rights and a gender perspective in legal and policy frameworks were organized, together with awareness raising sessions to change the negative attitudes and social norms towards women and girls with disabilities.
- Local partners expressed that the cost of including women with disabilities was very high in terms of mobility, to guarantee safety, and accessible/separate services such as toilets. This issue was partially resolved by merging some activities together, like organising training workshop and awareness raising session in the same day and venue, to properly manage transportation, and working with allies such as other AICS projects.

With regard to the challenges in the internal project management process, they mainly referred to the minor inconsistencies created by the full compliance with the EU applicable procedures and the full compliance with the AICS internal procedures. The inconsistencies were solved through the action of the project itself which allowed to coordinate actions avoiding delays in implementation, through the integration and mainstreaming of disability issues in the other projects of the agency, the experience of the project team and the constant exchange of information between partners. Effective knowledge management and constant updating of databases and project documents has also made it possible to avoid problems related to the turnover of the subjects of the project team.

The following table summarizes the main difficulties met by the partnership in the project implementation which drove to modification of the project's action plan and budget:







Challenges	Solutions
Worsening of the socio-economic situation and pandemic in the Country	Extension of timeframe and redirected funds to grantees Communication and operation channels always open at distance
Resistance or lack of cooperation of competent ministries/public bodies	Involvement of Ministries/sectorial public bodies officers with relevant roles in the programme since first phases Improvement of committment by formal agreement definition
Resistance and/or competition among CSOs	Strengthening the leadership, differentiating competencies and promotion of networking.
Lack of support by the local communities	Partecipative approach with the whole community Sharing the benefits of the initiatives with the community
Turnover of the programme personnel or institutional representatives	Maintaining programme documents and reports updated and archived Regular supervision of the status of play of the programme.
Internal procedure overlapping	Mainstreaming of issue in projects, open information
Local context reading	Delegation and trust in the problem solving capacity of CSOs













8. Cross-cutting topics

a. gender mainstreaming

Policy development may have different impacts on women and men, and may inadvertently perpetuate inequality or discrimination, even if correctly oriented towards the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities. One of the tools that was developed by the project to address the policy developments was the gender mainstreaming. This is proved by a range of activities developed by BtG-II putting the principles of gender mainstreaming into practice, including gender analysis, impact assessment, budgeting and evaluation. We should also consider that in order for these to function effectively, there have been and there still is a need for comprehensive gender-disaggregated statistics and gender indicators.

As far as gender mainstream is concerned then, it is possible to highlight many different references for this type of approach in BtG-II:

Internal Mainstreaming and Training to the Secretaries General of the State Councils of People with Disabilities, with focus on mainstreaming gender equality.

BtG-II worked with the Poverty Alleviation Project (PAP) and Tadmeen projects financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, co-designing an economic empowerment activity for women with disabilities and women in vulnerable situations in the Red Sea State. The cooperation with the PAP managed to amend the project documents with specific referrals to activities targeting persons with disabilities in the eastern states.

As result of this collaboration, the Red-Sea council of persons with disabilities selected 10 groups of women with disabilities to participate to trainings on rural skills and income generating activities, facilitated by an experienced local women's organization, under the supervision of PAP's staff. Women with disabilities would be included in the ongoing economic empowerment activities, increasing production and income opportunities for the entire women's association.

Enhanced capacity of the National Council of Persons with Disabilities and the Ministry of Social Development to collect disaggregated data, including awareness sessions on the rights of women with disabilities.

BtG-II in Sudan ensured a gender mainstreaming approach throughout all its activities, thanks to internal and external collaborations. With AICS Khartoum, BtG-II closely collaborated with AICS project Tadmeen on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Tadmeen has supported the GEWE mainstreaming in all social inclusion initiatives through its technical expertise. Externally, Project partners, especially the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, managed to establish fruitful partnerships with the private sector, such as with Zain Telecommunication Company, Dal Food Industries, and Saraya for Leather Product Co Ltd. Within these partnerships, employers were trained on disability rights, and they were supported by the OPDs to understand how to best accommodate persons with disabilities' needs and match individuals' abilities and interests to jobs. OPDs















maintained a constant contact with employers and negotiated with them wages, contracts and safety measures on the workplace for women and men with disabilities. As an example, Zain Telecommunication Company has adopted many accessibility measures for the employment of persons with disabilities, especially women, such as including them as call centre workers, and tailoring some products and services to answer to the needs of persons with hearing disabilities.

Four grants to strengthen employment of people with disabilities, which included gender analysis, sex disaggregated data, and adaptation of trainings to women's needs and schedules. Alle the grants included women participation for at least 50% of the total particippants and one of the four grants was directed entirely to support women with disabilities' employment.

Vocational Training workshop for Women with Disabilities in Kordofan States.

In Sudan, women and girls with disabilities often face barriers to their meaningful participation and inclusion in decision making at national, state and local levels. This compounds exclusion and discrimination at the societal level, prevents discussion of issues important to women and girls with disabilities, and leads to policies and programs that are not inclusive of their perspectives and needs.

BtG-II has enabled the development of Vocational Training Workshops for Women with Disabilities in Kordofan States. Kordofan locations were selected consequentially to the training held for the Secretaries Generals, when the participants agreed on supporting Women OPDs initiatives as a priority due to the dire conditions they face. Beneficiaries were selected by the state councils together with the local OPDs and women's associations, ensuring different ages and different backgrounds (rural-urban, literate-illiterate, family context-no family context). Trainings were tailored on the specific needs and interest raised by consultations with beneficiaries, plus taking into consideration market availability of raw materials and of specialized trainers. Two workshops focused on production of leather goods in North and West Kordofan, and one on production of detergent, conducted in South Kordofan. As a result, approximately 100 women with disabilities were equipped with basic vocational skills, knowledge, and the right attitude for starting their own business. An important component of the trainings was raising awareness on disability rights, and on the role of women in community development.

This activity raised an important point by bringing up an example on the level of exclusion that many women and girls still face especially when living in remote areas. Immediately after the starting of the vocational training workshops in South Kordofan State, four women with disabilities were denied by their families to travel to the capital to participate in the training, due to mistrust and negative attitudes towards women with disabilities. The State Council of Persons with Disabilities, in collaboration with the local women with disability association, created a local branch of the national association and mobilized women with disabilities at local level to join the disability movement and conduct home visits to convince the families to support the four women to attend the training.











Another example comes from the vocational training activities organized in North Kordofan where one locality did not let any representative of the local women with disabilities association to participate in the training, since the community belong to an ethnic minority that does not allow women to participate to public activities.

To overcome these barriers and guarantee full participation of women and girls with disabilities, the OPDs working with BtGII in Sudan adopted a twin-track approach by selecting accessible venues and facilitate the reasonable accommodation of the participants' needs. In case of participation of women and girls with disabilities from rural areas individualised support was considered as well as the opportunity to organise or disseminate the trainings in those remote localities to reach women not allowed to move due to social constraints. At the same time, at policy level training and consultative workshops with government officials national OPDs where organized in order to promote the inclusion of disability rights and a gender perspective in legal and policy frameworks, including Gender and Disability Sensitive Data collection Strategy, amendments of the Sudan National Disability Act 2001, inclusion of Disability in National Social Protection Policy and promoting the inclusion women with disabilities in national vocational training programmes.

The achievement of equal representation is however challenging, due to the underrepresentation of women and girls with disabilities in both leadership and membership of organizations of persons with disabilities (in addition to the underrepresentation of some disability constituencies like persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities).

Follow up of Training activities in Rural Development and Cooperative Management for the organization of Women with Disabilities in Gedaref State.

Following a similar structure, BtG-II together with the NCPD, identified women with disabilities living in rural areas in Gedaref State as a group that would greatly benefit from training on agricultural skills and micro-business management. Following a successful monitoring visit, the Project supported a second phase aiming to provide sustainability to the achievements obtained during the previous training, building capacity this time on practical applications to form and manage cooperative associations, which can provide economic independence, empowerment and social inclusion to rural women with disabilities. Many women with disabilities who participated in the capacity-building workshops succeeded lately in getting funding from the State Ministry of Social Welfare and other local sources of finance to establish their own businesses.

As women with disabilities, and OPDs working for and with them, were strengthened, it was a good sign and a desirable result that they come up with new ideas for interventions. The Women Producers Cooperative in Kassala city was created as a direct consequence of BtG-II activities, with 35 women with disabilities coming from both urban and rural localities. Moreover, multiple training sessions were organized under the request of the State Councils







of persons with Disabilities aiming to provide vocational and skill training to women with disabilities coming from 39 different localities.

Gender mainstreaming hadn't been just about involving women in the project, but also about ensuring that women's as well as men's experiences and concerns are built in to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policy, legislation and spending programmes, and that both individual rights and structural inequalities are addressed. It also entailed looking at institutions and how they worked, including gender representation within policy areas and decision-making structures.

The Gender Capitalization study has highlighted that the Project strategically supported the mainstreaming of gender equality and women empowerment with the main counterprts: National Government Institutions, Organizations of People with Disabilities, and Development Practitioners. Trainings and formative workshops have been organized based on the selected participants and theirpossibility to influence policeis and services. All the activities were organized considering the baseline knowledge of the topic, and the role they can play to include women and girls with disabilities in different aspects. Specifically referring to National Institutions and Development Practitioners, the main topic of the trainings was disability inclusion with a specific overview on the needs of girls and women. On the oter hand, the collaborations with the local Organizations focused on promoting women's leadership models, giving visibility and sharing virtuous examples. This activity inevitably meant to address the social norms that impede women's empowerment and meaningful participation. On this last point, strategical synergic collaborations with AICS program "TADMEEN" has provided insightful opportunities to address relevant and sensitive topics such us Gender Based Violence and Discrimination.

b. most marginalised groups

One way of thinking about marginalization is to identify some of the key ingredients for overcoming it. We present some ingredients used by BtG-II in the following outline.

Accessibility and affordability. Proximity and access to services for communities is an obvious condition for participation in education, training and welfare especially for young girls, as gender disparities in the country widen with distance. Here we should remember all the work done on the accessibility of infrastructures (barriers in buildings) and we should note how the support to organizations has given the chance to services to reach the bebeficiaries where they need it most. All these services also need to be affordable. Just as poverty can leave people hungry amid plentiful food, so it can lock poor children out of education even when schools are available.

N MENT











The learning environment. Most teachers attempt conscientiously to do a good job, often in difficult circumstances. Yet many children face restricted opportunities to learn in an appropriate language and more are taught by overstretched, undermotivated, untrained teachers in overcrowded classrooms lacking basic teaching materials.

While the problems are often system-wide, it is marginalized disabled children who experience them the most acutely. Strategies of BtG-II to fight marginalization have needed to ensure that schools and training courses serving the poor and disabled attract skilled teachers who can teach in an appropriate language with cultural sensitivity, and that sufficient and relevant teaching materials are available. In this case, the process of transferring children from ordinary school to organizations as a pilot action was monitored; waiting for the reforms to allow the dissemination of the necessary knowledge and skills in the Sudanese education system.

Entitlements and opportunities. Education can play an important role in combating marginalization. Mitigating the impact of poverty on education requires measures that increase and stabilize the incomes and food security of poor households. That is why training and employment are favored by the project; BtG-II pushed for legal provisions setting standards and equipping people with rights that unlock opportunities, provided they are enforceable. And public spending can help counteract the disadvantages associated with poverty. In each of these areas, actions by BtG-II on government have created an enabling environment for greater equity. At the same time, political mobilization by the marginalized, or by civil society more widely, is often a powerful catalyst for change.

Marginalized people are conspicuous in Sudan by their limitation from national debates on reforms. The implicit assumption of many policymakers is that, as national systems become more effective, the benefits will eventually trickle down to the most disadvantaged sections of society. That assumption is flawed. Increasing public spending on education or health or social welfare, raising average standards and strengthening overall accountability are necessary conditions for overcoming marginalization.

But they will not be sufficient to break the cycles of marginalization documented in the project reports. Reaching the marginalized has taken a concerted effort by the project staff to tackle the interlocking structures of disadvantage that limit opportunity. The diversity of the processes perpetuating marginalization means there are no simple panaceas or blueprints for reform. To the extent that any general conclusion can be drawn, it is that the government can, and should, do more to put marginalization at the centre of reform debates.

c.human rights-based approach

The human rights-based approach (HRBA) is a conceptual framework which is applicable in all development fields, and that is normatively based on international human rights standards and operationally directed to promoting and protecting human rights. BtG-II used it to analyse obligations, inequalities and vulnerabilities, and to tackle discriminatory practices and unjust distributions of power that impede and undercut the rights of persons







with disabilities. Under a human rights-based approach, plans, policies and programmes were anchored in a system of rights and corresponding obligations established by international law. This helped to promote sustainability, empowering people themselves (rights holders as OPDs and CSOs) - especially the most marginalized—to participate in policy formulation (relationship NCPD/Unions/OPDs) and hold accountable those who have a duty to act (duty bearers like ministry representatives).

A human rights-based approach in the project consisted of a number of essential attributes:

- As policies and programmes were formulated, the main objective should be to ensure and enforce the rights of persons with disabilities.
- The project identified rights holders and their entitlements and corresponding duty bearers and their obligations, and worked towards strengthening the capacities of rights holders to make their claims and of duty bearers to meet their obligations.
- Principles and standards derived from international human rights treaties have guided the technical support to the reform of all policies and programming in all sectors, and in all phases of policy-making and programming processes accessible to BtG-II.

d. promotion of the social economy

The promotion of social economy played an important role in addressing and mitigating the short- and long-term impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on economy and society, at least as regards the communities affected by the project. In the short term, social economy actors like OPDs and CSOs assisted the recovery from the crisis by providing innovative solutions that were aimed at strengthening access to knowledge or public services to complement government action. In the long term, social economy organisations involved in BtG-II shall for sure help reshape the post-crisis economy by promoting inclusive and sustainable economic models. Hopefully the social economy actors grown with the project will inspire models of social innovation and a sense of purpose to firms operating in the market economy.

The distinctive feature of the social economy promoted by BtG-II is its focus on economic practices that are sustainable and inclusive, by addressing the society needs by organising economic activities building on local roots, as well as using participatory and democratic governance (services and training); and by working in close co-operation with other economic actors (private sector) and relevant stakeholders (ministries and NCPD).

The demand for the social economy has never been greater in Sudan. Social economy organisations have been a trusted partner for the project, operating at the forefront of the crisis to address urgent sanitary and social needs. However, they are also facing the consequences of lockdown similar to other economic actors, including falling revenues or access to funds. Certain social economy legal forms (such as organizations) may







represent an obstacle to accessing government support measures available (see Unions).

The social economy organizations supported by BtG-II have proven to be pioneers in identifying and implementing social innovations and alternative ways of organising economic activities dedicated to vulnerable groups. These innovations have been subsequently mainstreamed and will be adopted by the rest of the economy as soon as the reforms will be implemented. These innovations are contributing as examples to social and economic transformation and will be much needed in the next few years in the country.

9. Sustainability and replicability of the project activities

Project activities' sustainability and replicability is an approach included in the management of BtG-II project since the beginning to ensure effective and efficient delivery of support and assistance.

Generally speaking, for project activities to be sustained in the future, certain metrics and standards were set from project through feasibility studies, formulation, design, appraisal, funding, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Experience and literature provide solid evidence that often projects fail because of the lack of an appropriate sustainability plan. In this perspective, BtG-II in Sudan generated a comprehensive analysis of the social, economic, legal, cultural, educational, and political environments for project implementation. The project philosophy, mission, vision, values, goals, and objectives have been fully articulated and stated in the country action plan. The involvement of stakeholders and advocacy leaders has been of paramount importance since it facilitated awareness and commitment issues. Beneficiary assessment, legal and regulatory framework studies, marketing and competition analysis, partnership development and institutional analysis gave room for effective and efficient future implementation of the activities, in particular NCPD action and OPDs/CSOs services.

The Initiative supported the role of the NCPD with a dedicated technical assistance and promoting its role among the main institutions. On this point, it is expected that the collaboration with the line ministries will provide the necessary political focus and the financial means for the NCPD to continue providing advice and coordination to the Disability Movement in Sudan even after the project conclusion.

Moreover, the project planned and implemented activities to promote the meaningful participation of Sudanese OPDs through training sessions on awareness, leadership and representativeness along with specific technical skills. Such perspective meant to enable the organizations with the technical skills necessary for accessing a wide range of resources for the needed services, while at the same time growing as advocacy leaders able to hold









the institutions accountable for the rights of persons with disabilities.

The dimensions in which sustainability and replicability are therefore expressed are two fundamental: the capacity of the NCPD to continue in the action of improving legislation and inclusive policies for people with disabilities and the capacity of the OPDs to continue in the provision of services, reducing poverty and increasing the well-being of the selected beneficiary groups; the latter also will have sustained capacity to advocate for disability inclusion at any level (national, federal, international) and are better coordinated than in the past to find common advocacy objectives.

In detail, the characteristics of sustainability and replicability expressed and verifiable by BtG-II are:

Adaptability: in organizational management, adaptability is the ability to change something or oneself to fit in occurring changes and to cope with the unexpected disturbances in any environment. In the project perspective, it is the ability to adapt activities to efficiently fast enough to changing circumstances. The activities regarding the three outcomes are sustainable because are open and developed the ability to fit in any changing environment (political situation, economic crisis, regional and cultural issues).

Audit ability: an audit is often an evaluation of a person, organization, system, process, enterprise, project, or product. But this concept also applied to BtG-II project management. Audits were performed to ascertain the validity and reliability of information in order to express an activity and to provide the system of internal control. Because of increasing number of factors affecting inclusion policies and services and the need for operational transparency, audits were adopted by organizations to cover multiple regulations, standards and give a size to the phenomenon, in order to ensure credibility, good governance and sustainability.

Implement Ability: one fundamental principle in management of project activities of OPDs have been that they should be realistic, feasible, attainable, and above all implementable in order for it to be sustainable in the market place and in the social environment.

Scalability: Scalability deals with the ability of a project to accommodate addition to its capacity or capabilities and expands its scope of operation. It also deals with its ability to increase in size, volume, quantity, or scope to accommodate unforeseen additional components or features of the project. Indeed, OPDs proved not only to have learned the principles proposed by the project but to be able to transfer them to other communities in adjacent geographical areas (women with disabilities cooperatives) or to modify them according to the need to reach the final beneficiaries in the best possible way or to expand their business even in the absence of funds (e.g organization of people with intellectual disabilities).

Manageability: project activities will be sustainable because have an organizational structure specifying roles and responsibilities and duties. This will facilitate the management of future activities and enhance its sustainability.







What is instead partially lacking under the sustainability point of view are the following characteristics:

Extensibility: this is the ability to extend the project activities through the addition of new functions or modification of existing functions to effect change while minimizing existing project functions.

Maintainability: an action is sustainable when defects can be corrected, it is able to meet new requirements, future maintenance is made easier, and it can cope with the changing environment.

These two aspects are clearly linked to the application of the procedures envisaged for funding and may also undergo an evolution depending on the development of the dialogue between service providers and state institutions.

Another important asset to develop sustainability and replicability is data and knowledge management. During the whole project duration, the project team took stock of the achievement of its results, not only in the light of progress achieved, but also in the light of the project sustainability. Capacity building activities were accompanied by evaluation aiming to identify, among other things, elements for how lessons learnt could be transferred from the participants to other people not attending but also to the institutions/organisations they work with. In addition, impact assessment interviews or exchanges were carried out throughout the project's duration in order to assess short, medium and most probably long-term impact, and among other things, the impact of the project to the participants' career and any sustainability elements that may have been taken further. These stock taking efforts became more intensive during the last twelve months of the project, during which, the team developed some more tools to harvest and identify the information related to the project results and their perspectives with regards to sustainability and replication. These tools were in the form of:

- results capitalisation documents, in order to get feedback on if and how the activities helped the OPDs and NCPD to achieve goals, their intentions to replicate the activities and plans for taking the activities further, on their own, after the project's end.
- dedicated panel discussions during the meetings, carried out in all partner in order to identify what are the follow up actions in connection to the project as well as emerging country needs for future programming and planning for the follow-up phase of BtG-II.
- the project's key experts and other team members held telephone or face-to face interviews for discussing the results capitalisation and the project's contribution to the country's work in general, focusing on sustainability aspects and replication/upscaling plans.

The capitalization of the rights of person with disabilities will accompany the Country's transition phase where the civil society is slowly moving away from the strains of a regime lasted over thirty years. The massive economic crisis that has overwelemed the country immediately after the revolution has broght as consequence the compete abolition of all the







subsidies to basic commodities, causing three-ciphers inlatioon and frequent shortagies. In this cnditions, the social texture of the country is at great risk, with recurrent clashes that appears to take ethinc and tribal features and too often are convenient to the most reactionary groups that press for more extrimistic form of government.

Within this framework the active role of the civil society, through participation committies and public consultations, has the role to keep open and active the engsgement of all the different componets of the Sudanes society. In particular, for the disability movement in Sudan this will be a historical opportunity to accomplish years of activism demand equal rights and inclusion. For this reason, the engagement of OPDs will be an essential component that the disability advocacy leaders will have to promote and enforce. The current situation is already sending warning signs about the transition process being extremely challenging with a very instable political framework and critical socio-economic conditions. The activist community and the OPDs themselves are of course not immune to such difficulties which too often have highlighted differences and divisions among the different members. In fact, too often internal divisions have led to fragmented positions that weakened the public demand for equal rights and social inclusion.

Within the past years the project has witnessed a rise or self-awareness and commitment among the members of the activist community that supported by the international momentum on equality and inclusion have increasingly raised their voice among Institutions, Civil society and International Community. The revolution of 2019 was driven by leaders of the activist movement and union representatives that longed for a democratic Country where every person has the right to participate. Among them the representatives of national OPDs participated encompassing the spirit of the revolution and building on the momentum for bringing their demand for equality, inclusion and finally social justice.

The challenges are still numerous and the future still bare great uncertainty, nevertheless the disability movement and the human and civil rights activists' movement have accomplished a gigantig leap toward defining a more inclusive and faire society. In this framework important activities have been incepted with the support of BtG such us the inclusive participation to the democratic process in Red Sea State, where civil rights activist has organised constitutional consultantions facilitating the participation of OPD members in order to prepare and inform the election of next constitutional assembly.

Likewise, the NCPD with the support of BtG has started for the first time in Sudan's history a comprehensive review and reform process of the national legisltation in order to comprise the principle of the CRPD within the national laws and promote equal rights and meaningful participation for all the persons living with disabilities in Sudan.

These are two example that probably well explain where the country will be in the coming years and eventually the strength to face the enourmus challenges that are already threating the future will be possibly coming from the joint efforts of its committed people that either as civil society activist or representing a public institution will operate to promote human and civil rights and therefore to leave no one behind.







10. Synergies and complementarities

BtG-II could implement the following synergies and complementarities:

a. Organisational synergy: Organisational synergies have been achieved through interaction with other entities when the practices, knowledge or intellectual capital of one organisation is affected, or augmented, by another. One example of this type of synergy was developed through the valid support of the EU Delegation in Sudan; in fact, the project's action was already oriented towards fruitful cooperation to improve the EU External Action in Sudan through synergies; as result, BtG-II has supported GIZ with the accessibility of their vocational training programs in Darfurand cooperated with UNIDO in supporting inclusive and accessible vocational training centres plus a specific commitment to enrol trainees with disabilities. The same contribution happened with AICS initiatives in Sudan, especially with the Poverty Alleviation Project in Kassala And the Family Medicine Project in Kahrtoum.

b. Policy synergy: Examples include the success of the GFPD in promoting and securing a general agreement amongst the wider donor group to mainstream effectiveness of inclusion principles. A further example might be the Institutional commitment mobilized (AICS, Embassy of Italy, Embassy of Spain) to promote inclusive development practices in Sudan... Within the International Community, the project has proceeded promoting contacts and sharing opportunities involving as well other actors such as UNESCO, UNICEF, ICRC, ZOA and ADD International which have been contacted and met to discuss on topics related to the social inclusion of persons with disabilities in Sudan.

With a sustainability perspective, BtG-II started also to exchange with members of the Private Sector (DAL, Haggar) in order to facilitate Inclusion with employment opportunities for persons with disabilities who benefitted of the project's activities and possible collaboration with the interested organizations.

Achieving greater than expected impact by combining policy positions and influencing strategies in an interactive way; policy synergies might be seen in the interaction of a variety of donors (both bilateral and multilateral) to promote particular global or country level goals. This can be linked to collusive synergy achieved when two or more merged organisations can determine conditions more powerfully than the two separate, competitive organisations.

c. *Operational synergy*: Operational synergies are coming from the innovations of projects being applied through backward and forward linkages with BtG-II themes of inclusion. Examples are AICS health program DICTORNA on adequate consideration of accessibility and inclusion of health centers, AICS TADMEEN programme for Social inclusion, Human Capital Development and Protection of Vulnerable Groups within Migrants, Refugees and Host Communities, Embassy of Italy networking with international community, MICS revision with UNICEF.

Furthermore, the project has developed synergies also with the WASH sector of AICS – with a training on Inclusive WASH- and with several humanitarian initiatives from the Emergency Office both in Sudan and the Partner Countries.







Special attention has been dedicated to the preparation of new project proposals where BtG-II collaborated in two new proposals funded by AICS (IN-LAB and Res-East) and one proposal funded by the EU (WE-RISE!).

Combining programmes or initiatives in an interactive manner allows to achieve greater effect than individual projects/programmes or their sums. The Paris Declaration calls for donors' action to be more collectively effective. It is through the achievement of operational synergies that greater impact on the ground is likely to be achieved. Operational synergies relate more directly to the interaction between programmes and other activities and the potential for strengthened programme outcomes.















11. Details on transfers

Assets Donated

Country	ltem	Cost	Transferred to	Transferred on	Rationale	Supporting evidence
Sudan	Laptop HP	670,00€	NCPD	01/09/2021	Transfer to Institutional counterpart	Certificate of donation/Annex IX
Sudan	DESKTOP	750,00€	NCPD	01/09/2021	Transfer to Institutional counterpart	Certificate of donation/Annex IX
Sudan	MONITOR	195,00€	NCPD	01/09/2021	Transfer to Institutional counterpart	Certificate of donation/Annex IX
Sudan	PRINTER	305,00€	NCPD	01/09/2021	Transfer to Institutional counterpart	Certificate of donation/Annex IX
Sudan	LAPTOP Lenovo	578,00€	NCPD	01/09/2021	Transfer to Institutional counterpart	Certificate of donation/Annex IX
Sudan	INTERNAL HARD DISK (Desktop)	90,04 €	NCPD	01/09/2021	Transfer to Institutional counterpart	Certificate of donation/Annex IX
TOTAL	6	2.588,04€				

Asstes Dismissed

Country	Item	Cost	Supporting evidence
Sudan	2-DOOR CABINET 1/2 GLASS 1/2 WOOD	159,00€	Verbale Dismissione Beni
Sudan	1/2 CABINET	92,00€	Verbale Dismissione Beni
Sudan	OFFICE FURNITURE	351,00€	Verbale Dismissione Beni
Sudan	AIR CONDITIONER	1.275,03€	Verbale Dismissione Beni
TOTAL	4	1.877,03€	







12. **Financial implementation** Drafted by FIIAPP















Monitoring and evaluation: summary of the controls and 13. audits

Prepared by FIIAPP.















Payment request 14.

Prepared and attached by FIIAPP.















15. **ANNEXES**

See attached file.











