

ANALYSIS OF DISABILITY DATA 2024-2025

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FOREWORD

The “Analysis of Disability Data 2024 and 2025” report forms part of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation’s undertaking to more closely monitor its efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities and to progressively integrate inclusion into all areas of development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

This commitment is based on the Leave No One Behind principle of the 2030 Agenda¹, on the 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)², with particular reference to Article 32 on international cooperation, and on the 2018 AICS Guidelines on disability and social inclusion in cooperation initiatives³, which highlight the importance of collecting and using data as provided for in Article 31 of the CRPD.

In keeping with this framework, Italy is working to promote the rights of persons with disabilities at both national and international levels. At a national level, Italian Legislative Decree No. 62 of 3 May 2024 updated the legal framework on disability, which was already among the most advanced and inclusive internationally, introducing as key elements a new definition of disability, the individual, personalised and participatory life plan, and reasonable accommodation. This is complemented by the Third Action Plan for the promotion of the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities, adopted by Italian Presidential Decree of 12 March 2026 and prepared in the context of the National Observatory on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, in whose work AICS has participated since 2023 as a permanent invitee. Under Action Line 6 “Inclusive Security and International Cooperation”, the Plan assigns AICS and MAECI-DGCS a leading role in collecting and analysing data on cooperation projects aimed at persons with disabilities, identifying good practices and disseminating them by means of an accessible publication.

Carrying out a periodic analysis of disability is an essential undertaking to make the Agency’s action in this area more visible, measurable and amenable to planning. Indeed, it provides the opportunity to examine not only those initiatives specifically aimed at persons with disabilities, but also the progressive integration of inclusivity into the various sectors of cooperation and various delivery channels.

Methodologically, this Report introduces a significant change compared with previous editions: the analysis is based on the funding approved by the AICS in 2024 and 2025, rather than the actual disbursements. This approach makes it possible to reflect the commitment undertaken by the Italian Cooperation system – and therefore by the Agency – at the time funding was approved, providing a picture that is more consistent with the planning and priorities set out for the period in question.

In an international context characterised by protracted crises, armed conflicts, institutional fragility and growing inequalities, persons with disabilities continue to face physical, communicative, social and institutional barriers that restrict their access to rights and services. The ability to plan inclusive and accessible initiatives

1. The “Leave No One Behind” principle is the overarching commitment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (UN Resolution A/RES/70/1, 2015) to reach the most marginalised groups first.

2. United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), adopted on 13 December 2006; ratified by Italy with Italian Law No. 18 of 3 March 2009. Article 32 concerns international cooperation and Article 31 concerns the collection of data and statistics.

3. Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), Guidelines on disability and social inclusion in cooperation initiatives, 2018.

is therefore of paramount importance, both in development programmes and in emergency responses.

I am therefore pleased to present this Report, which provides an up-to-date overview of the AICS’s engagement during the 2024–2025 period and serves as a useful guide for future planning. It is hoped that this work will help to further enhance data quality, analytical capacity and the systematic integration of disability issues into all cooperation initiatives, in keeping with the objective of promoting equal opportunities, accessibility and the full participation of persons with disabilities in partner countries.

Marco Riccardo Rusconi
AICS Director



Ph.: AICS Amman - COOPI

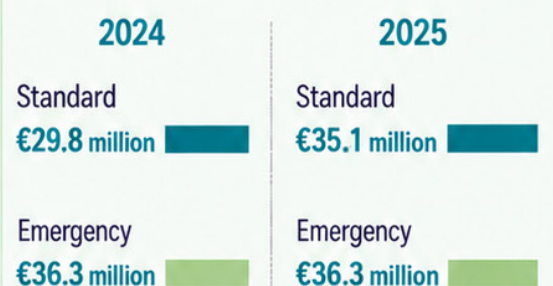
AICS Disability 2024–2025

Key data

1 Approved funding for disability

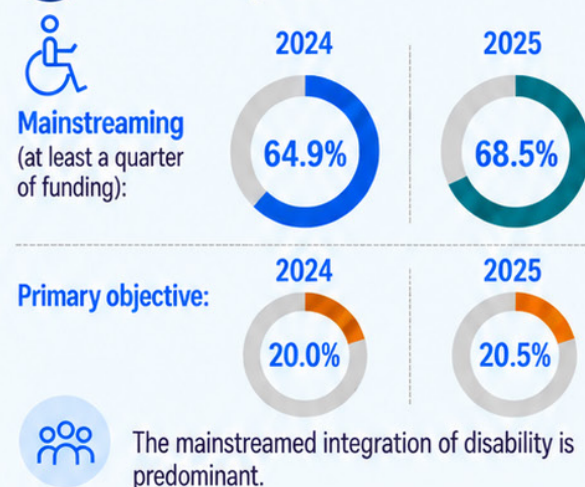


2 Delivery channel

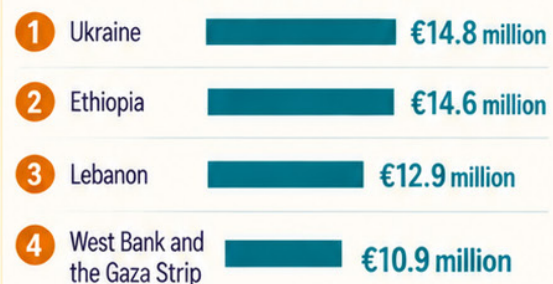


In 2025, the standard channel increased; the emergency channel remains significant.

3 Disability Marker



4 Countries with greatest approved funding for disability in the two-year period



5 Stakeholder(s)



Source: AICS analysis based on Nextreport data, extracted on 14 July 2026. Excluding B02 core contributions and related sub-categories as defined by the OECD-DAC.

INTRODUCTION

This report analyses the initiatives approved by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in 2024 and 2025 that include a disability-related component, identified using the AICS Disability Marker.

The aim is to provide a descriptive and quantitative overview of the Agency's financial commitment over the two-year period in question, with a particular focus on the extent to which, and ways in which, disability is incorporated into the initiatives funded. The analysis covers both projects in which disability is the primary objective and those in which it is mainstreamed across the project, in keeping with the twin-track approach, which combines targeted initiatives with mainstreaming.⁴

Unlike previous editions, which were based on disbursements, this Report considers approved funding. This choice entails a different analytical perspective: whilst disbursements reflect the financial progress of projects throughout the implementation period, approved funding reflects the undertaking made at the decision-making and planning stage. For this reason, the data presented cannot be directly compared with those from previous analyses, but they do provide a clearer picture of the AICS's approach during the period in question.

The AICS Disability Marker is the tool used by the Agency to identify, classify and analyse initiatives in which disability is the primary objective or a mainstreamed component. The work of assigning and validating the marker, carried out in coordination with the Technical Offices, Country Offices, Humanitarian Aid Unit and Statistics Unit, makes it possible to identify the share of funding attributable to disability and to strengthen the quality of monitoring.

The Report therefore serves as a tool for knowledge-building, accountability and support for planning, aimed at clarifying the AICS's contribution to promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and to developing increasingly inclusive cooperation initiatives.

4. The twin-track approach combines initiatives specifically aimed at persons with disabilities with the mainstreaming of disability considerations across programmes with different sectoral focuses.

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WORKING METHODOLOGY: FROM DISBURSEMENTS TO APPROVED FUNDING

For the purposes of this Report, the terms **approved funding** or **approved funds** refer to the amount formally approved by resolution in the reference year for the funding - usually broken down into annual instalments or payments - for cooperation initiatives. This figure should be distinguished from disbursements, which measure the amounts actually disbursed in the same year, usually in one or more tranches, and which may depend on the timing of the initiative's launch and implementation, as well as on its administrative and financial progress.

Focusing on the approved funding therefore provides an overview of the financial commitment undertaken by the AICS at the stage of approving initiatives and enables an understanding of the planning framework and priorities of the Italian Cooperation system in the period in question.

The processed data do not include "core contributions" to multilateral institutions and global funds, assigned B02 codes, and their sub-categories, as per the OECD-DAC definition.⁵

The Report examines the initiatives approved from various analytical perspectives: the type of Disability Marker assigned, whether the delivery channel was standard or emergency, the country of implementation, the sectors identified using OECD-DAC codes, the stakeholders involved, and the intersection of gender and disability.

The structure of the document reflects this approach: the first section outlines the working methodology and how the AICS Disability Marker operates; the second presents a descriptive and quantitative analysis of the projects approved for the 2024-2025 two-year period; the third section sets out the main conclusions and some useful insights for strengthening monitoring and future planning.

1.1 AICS DISABILITY MARKER

In 2014, the Italian cooperation system introduced the Disability Marker into its information system, a tool designed to measure and monitor efforts to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in cooperation initiatives.

The inclusion of the Marker is mandatory for all initiatives approved and funded by the Agency, whether carried out directly by AICS or submitted and implemented by the cooperation bodies provided for under Italian Law 125/2014⁶, including civil society organisations, international organisations, universities, research institutions, public bodies, local authorities and other eligible entities.

5. The analysis is based on data extracted from Nextreport as at 14 July 2026. Code B02 is the OECD-DAC code used to classify core contributions to multilateral organisations and global funds according to the form of cooperation.

6. Italian Law no. 125 of 11 August 2014, "General provisions on international development cooperation".

Assignment of the Marker is based on both qualitative and quantitative criteria. The first set specifically reflects the inclusive approach adopted and relates to the actual existence of objectives, outcomes, activities, indicators, accessibility measures or reasonable accommodation, as well as the involvement of disabled persons' organisations; the second set relates to the share of the budget allocated to these components, without which the Marker cannot be properly assessed.

The table below identifies the Marker corresponding to the percentage of the budget allocated to disability (and thus to the implementation of activities and the achievement of results and/or objectives relating to disability) and, consequently, to the greater or lesser prominence of this issue within the project. A distinction is thus made between initiatives in which the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities is the primary or predominant objective (100% and 75% of the funding) and projects in which disability is mainstreamed, with a smaller share of funding (mainstreaming).⁷

TABLE 1 - AICS Disability Markers and their correspondence with the OECD-DAC Disability Policy Markers

AICS DISABILITY MARKER	% OF FUNDING ALLOCATED TO DISABILITY	OECD-DAC DISABILITY POLICY MARKER
4. Primary objective	≤ 100%	Principal
3. The majority of funding	≤ 75%	
2. Half of funding	50%	Significant
1. At least a quarter of funding	≥ 25%	

The OECD-DAC Disability Policy Marker, adopted in 2018 by the Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT)⁸, uses a different classification from that used by the AICS. In terms of reclassification, the 100% and 75% AICS markers correspond to the "principal" category, and the 50% and 25% markers to the "significant" category, while initiatives without a disability component are classified as "not targeted".

For the purposes of this Report, the share of the approved funding attributable to disability is calculated by applying the AICS Disability Marker percentage to the total funding for each individual initiative, in order to distinguish the overall value of the project from the share actually attributable to the disability component.

7. Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), AICS Disability Marker Manual, 2024.

8. The OECD-DAC Disability Policy Marker classifies initiatives according to the extent to which they are geared towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities ("principal", "significant", "not targeted").

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DESCRIPTIVE AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE APPROVED PROJECTS

2.1. APPROVED FUNDING FOR DISABILITY - 2024 AND 2025

Table 2 shows, in absolute terms and as a percentage, the volume of disability-related approved funding in 2024 and 2025, as a proportion of the total approved funding. The findings show a positive trend: while the Agency's total approved funding for 2025 decreased, the amount allocated to disability support increased, from approximately €66 million in 2024 to around €68.7 million in 2025.

As discussed in more detail in the following paragraphs, this amount includes both initiatives focused entirely or primarily on disability, and components relating to objectives, outcomes, activities or budget lines focused on disability within initiatives the main focus of which lies in other sectors.

TABLE 2 - Approved funding in the disability sector (€ and %) 2024–2025

YEAR	TOTAL APPROVED FUNDING	APPROVED FUNDING FOR DISABILITY	%
2024	988,991,992	66,044,994	6.7
2025	867,750,741	68,707,563	7.9

2.2. ANALYSIS BY MARKER TYPE: TO WHAT EXTENT IS THE DISABILITY COMPONENT INCORPORATED?

Table 3 shows the approved funding for disability in 2024 and 2025, broken down by type of AICS Disability Marker. This figure provides an insight not only into the total amount of funding allocated to disability, but also into the varying degrees of prominence of the component within the approved initiatives.

In both years, the largest share of approved funding falls within the "At least a quarter of funding" category, accounting for 64.9% in 2024 and 68.5% in 2025. This finding confirms the significance of the mainstreaming approach,

specifically the mainstreamed integration of disability issues into initiatives that focus primarily on other sectors, but which include objectives, outcomes, activities or budget lines that specifically relate to the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

At the same time, the share of approved funding for initiatives in which disability plays a central role remains significant. Considering the "Primary objective" and "Most, but not all, of funding" categories together, the approved funding for initiatives specifically or predominantly focused on disability accounts for 27.8% of the total in 2024 and 24.2% in 2025. In absolute terms, initiatives with disability as their primary focus have increased slightly, from approximately €13.2 million in 2024 to approximately €14.1 million in 2025.

Overall, the breakdown by marker confirms the application of the twin-track approach: on the one hand, the design and funding of initiatives specifically aimed at persons with disabilities; on the other, the mainstreaming of disability across projects relating to various sectors of development cooperation and humanitarian aid (for example, the environment, rural development and enterprise development).

TABLE 3 - Approved funding for the disability sector by marker type (€ and %) 2024–2025

DISABILITY MARKER	2024	%	2025	%
4. Primary objective	13,194,468	20.0	14,116,315	20.5
3. Most of funding	5,130,000	7.8	2,557,070	3.7
2. Half of funding	4,861,000	7.4	4,940,658	7.2
1. At least a quarter of funding	42,859,526	64.9	47,093,520	68.5
Total	66,044,994	100.0	68,707,563	100.0

2.3. ANALYSIS BY DELIVERY CHANNEL: STANDARD AND EMERGENCY

Table 4 sets out the approved funding for disability, broken down into the two delivery channels: standard and emergency.

In 2024, the largest share of the approved funding for disability was attributable to the emergency channel, accounting for approximately €36.3 million, just under 55% of the total. The standard channel, meanwhile, was allocated approximately €29.8 million, accounting for approximately 45%.

In 2025, the balance between the two channels is more evenly distributed, with the standard channel slightly ahead: the approved funding for disability under the standard channel rose to approximately €35.1 million, while the emergency channel stood at approximately €33.6 million.

The data therefore highlights a twofold trend: there remains a strong focus on disability in crisis situations and, at the same time, a strengthening of the standard channel is evident by 2025, signalling the increasing integration of disability into development programmes as well.

TABLE 4 — Approved funding by channel type: standard and emergency, 2024 and 2025

CHANNEL	2024	2025
Ordinary	29,752,797	35,148,671
Emergency	36,292,197	33,558,893
Total	66,044,994	68,707,563

Table 5 enables a more in-depth analysis of the data, comparing the approved funding for disability with the total amount allocated by the AICS for each channel. In 2024, the approved funding for disability accounted for 4.4% of standard approved funding and 11.3% of emergency approved funding. In 2025, these percentages increased to 5.4% and 15.4% respectively.

This finding is particularly significant because, despite an absolute decrease in approved funding for disability through the emergency channel in 2025, its share of the total approved funding increased. This indicates that, within humanitarian planning, the disability component is accounting for a proportionally larger share.

TABLE 5 - Approved funding for disability as a proportion of total approved funding by type of channel: standard and emergency (€ and %) 2024–2025

	2024		2025	
	ORDINARY	EMERGENCY	ORDINARY	EMERGENCY
Total approved funding	668,749,940	320,242,052	649,983,858	217,766,883
Approved funding for disability	29,752,797	36,292,197	35,148,671	33,558,893
% of disability out of the total	4.4%	11.3%	5.4%	15.4%

2.4. ANALYSIS BY COUNTRY OF IMPLEMENTATION

The Agency operates in over 50 countries, where its cooperation activities focus on different areas depending on national priorities, the needs of local populations and the context of the initiative. In recent years, the objective has been to increasingly mainstream disability across development and humanitarian programmes, taking into account the specificities of different contexts.

Table 6 shows the countries with the highest approved funding for the disability sector for the 2024–2025 two-year period. This data enables us to examine the geographical distribution of AICS funding, taking into account both the absolute value of the approved funding for disability and its proportion of the total approved funding in each country.

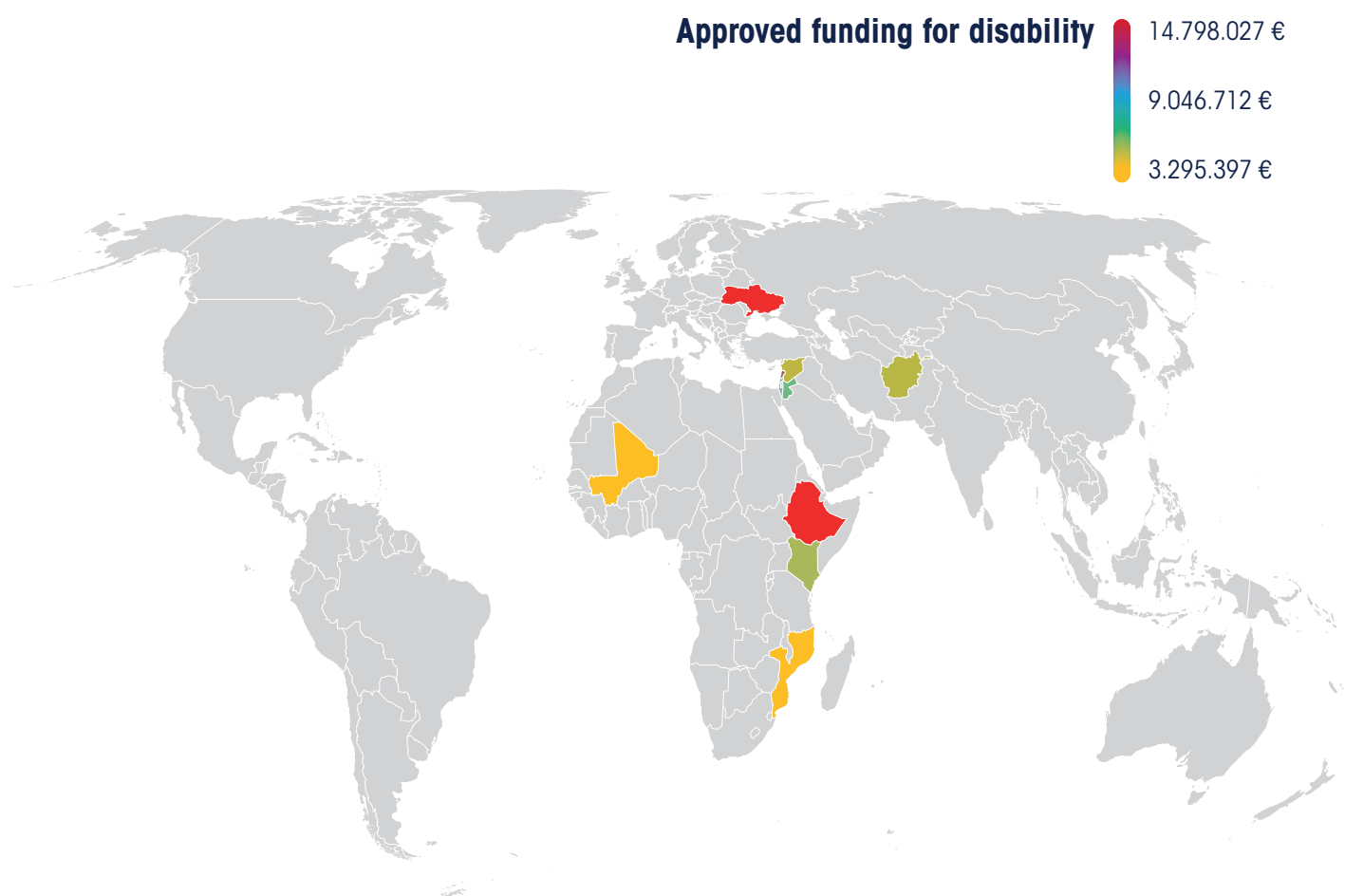
During the two-year period in question, the largest amounts approved in the disability sector relate to Ukraine, Ethiopia, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Kenya, Afghanistan and Syria. In particular, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip account for a significant share of the total approved funding for disability in the two-year period, confirming AICS's focus on areas characterised by protracted crises, institutional fragility, conflicts or environmental disasters.

In such contexts, the situation of persons with disabilities – and women and girls in particular – can be exacerbated by the combination of conflict, displacement, poverty and institutional fragility, with consequences for access to essential services, protection systems, early warning mechanisms and accessibility guarantees. Ethiopia and Lebanon maintain high levels in both years, confirming the significance of the disability component in contexts where development needs, socio-economic vulnerabilities, the presence of vulnerable populations and the need to strengthen services intersect. In Lebanon, in particular, approved funding for disability accounted for 20.9% of the total approved funding over the two-year period, one of the highest proportions amongst countries with the largest funding volumes.

TABLE 6 - Countries with the highest approved funding for the disability sector in the 2024–2025 two-year period

COUNTRY	2024			2025			2024 + 2025		
	APP. FUND. TOTAL (EUROS)	APP. FUND. DISABILITY (EUROS)	%	APP. FUND. TOTAL (EUROS)	APP. FUND. DISABILITY (EUROS)	%	APP. FUND. TOTAL (EUROS)	APP. FUND. DISABILITY (EUROS)	%
Ukraine	43.991.780	6.508.096	14,8	52.832.984	8.289.932	15,7	96.824.764	14.798.027	15,3
Ethiopia	67.529.365	8.693.625	12,9	36.299.032	5.916.884	16,3	103.828.397	14.610.509	14,1
Lebanon	36.866.277	6.625.000	18	24.562.687	6.238.814	25,4	61.428.965	12.863.814	20,9
West Bank and the Gaza Strip	49.377.731	3.779.987	7,7	50.360.031	7.167.315	14,2	99.737.762	10.947.302	11
Jordan	25.045.707	3.342.750	13,3	16.731.121	2.928.483	17,5	41.776.829	6.271.232	15
Kenya	13.016.104	1.375.000	10,6	30.998.732	3.688.419	11,9	44.014.836	5.063.419	11,5
Afghanistan	15.500.000	1.000.000	6,5	12.684.623	3.627.500	28,6	28.184.623	4.627.500	16,4
Syria	35.990.000	375.000	1	37.254.478	4.207.983	11,3	73.244.478	4.582.983	6,3
Europe, regional	3.711.309	250.000	6,7	16.598.733	3.500.000	21,1	20.310.042	3.750.000	18,5
Mozambique	16.234.370	1.330.000	8,2	28.429.603	2.143.239	7,5	44.663.973	3.473.239	7,8
Mali	17.133.357	2.166.983	12,6	8.761.994	1.128.414	12,9	25.895.351	3.295.397	12,7

FIGURE 1 - GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF APPROVED FUNDING FOR DISABILITY IN THE 2024-2025 TWO-YEAR PERIOD



2.5. ANALYSIS BY OECD-DAC PURPOSE CODES

The OECD-DAC purpose codes classify cooperation initiatives by thematic sector and provide an overview of the distribution of resources across areas such as education, health, governance, infrastructure, agriculture, the environment and humanitarian aid. This classification therefore makes it possible to analyse the sectors in which approved funding for disability is concentrated.

Figures 2 and 2.1 highlight the main areas of action in which approved funding for disability were concentrated in 2024 and 2025, distinguishing between development initiatives and humanitarian aid initiatives. The figures relate to the scope shown in the charts – i.e., the bilateral channel – and not to the entire approved funding for disability for the two-year period.

As regards development initiatives, in the 2024-2025 two-year period, the sector with the highest approved funding for disability is “Education and Training”, with approximately €14.1 million. This is followed by “Health, reproductive health”, with around €12.7 million, and “Infrastructure, services, transport and communications”, with around €10.6 million. These findings confirm the central role of areas directly linked to access to the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities, such as inclusive education, health services, and the accessibility of infrastructure and essential services.

The “Government and Civil Society, Peace and Security” sector accounts for approximately €6.6 million, highlighting the importance of initiatives aimed at institutional strengthening, the protection of rights, participation and social cohesion.

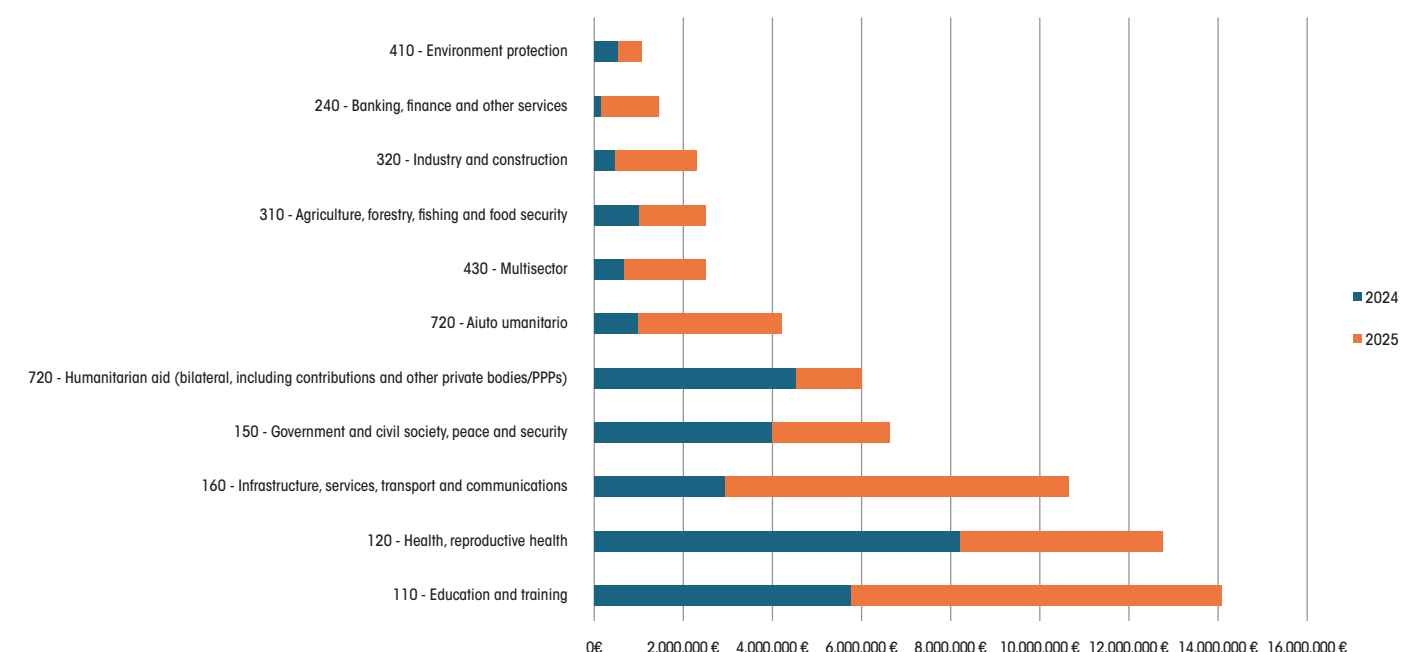
Compared with 2024, 2025 saw an increase in approved funding for disability across a number of sectors, including education, infrastructure, agriculture, industry and financial services. This trend points to a gradual expansion of the disability component to include areas not traditionally associated with the issue, but which are essential for promoting independence, economic inclusion, accessibility and participation.

As regards humanitarian aid, the largest share of approved funding for disability is in the “Humanitarian Aid” category, totalling approximately €53.6 million over the two-year period. This is followed by “Government and civil society, peace and security”, with around 11.6 million, “Education and training”, with around €2.1 million, and “Water and sanitation”, with €940,000.

The findings confirm that, in emergency situations, disability is primarily considered in the context of the humanitarian response, protection, access to essential services and support for populations affected by crises.

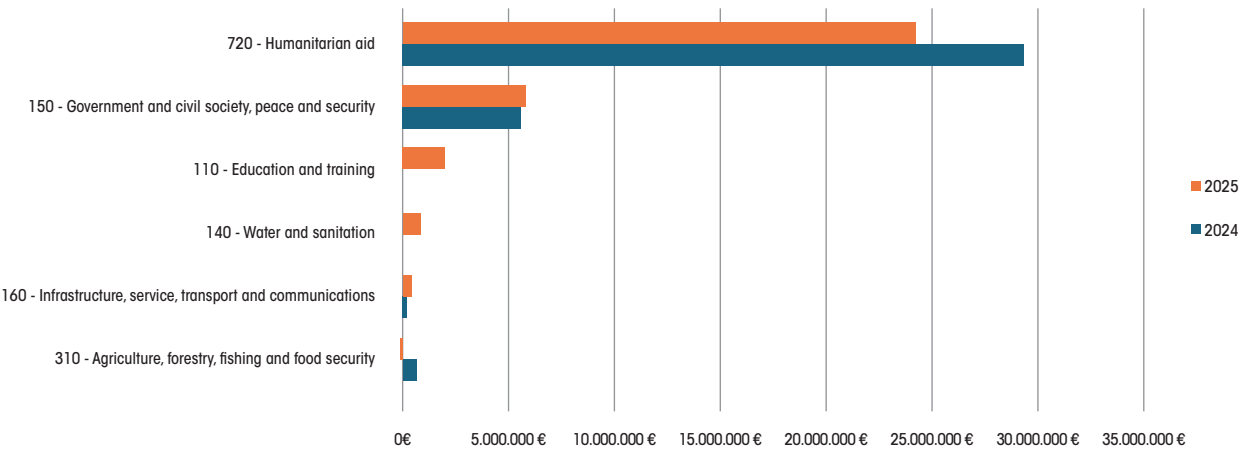
Overall, the analysis by OECD-DAC codes confirms that the approved funding for disability is distributed across a range of sectors. This distribution is consistent with the mainstreaming approach promoted by the AICS and with the need to address disability as a key consideration in all cooperation policies.

FIGURE 2 - APPROVED FUNDING FOR DISABILITY BY OECD-DAC CODES - DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES (BILATERAL CHANNEL)



Note on the figure: €34,853,775 relating to the year 2025 and €29,253,028 relating to the year 2024.

FIGURE 2.1 - APPROVED FUNDING FOR DISABILITY BY OECD-DAC CODES - HUMANITARIAN AID (BILATERAL CHANNEL)



Note on the figure: €24,260,258 relating to the year 2025 and €29,384,697 relating to the year 2024.

2.6. STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS

Table 7 sets out the approved funding for disability by stakeholder type, in accordance with the classification based on the provisions of Italian Law 125/2014.

In 2024, the largest share is attributable to international organisations, with approximately €30.5 million, accounting for 46.2% of the approved funding for disability, followed by direct management by AICS, with approximately €23.8 million, accounting for 36.1%. These are followed, to a lesser extent, by national CSOs, totalling approximately €5 million, public bodies in the recipient countries, with around €3.6 million, universities and national research institutions, and national public bodies, with a remaining unclassified amount of €300,000.

In 2025, international organisations remained the leading category in terms of volume, with approximately €28.2 million, accounting for 41.1% of the approved funding for disability. This is followed by direct management by AICS, with around €18.1 million, and national CSOs, which recorded the most significant increase, rising from approximately €5 million in 2024 to approximately €13.4 million in 2025, accounting for 19.5% of the year's approved funding for disability.

Considering international organisations and direct management by AICS together, their joint share remains predominant but is decreasing, falling from approximately 82.2% of the approved funding for disability in 2024 to approximately 67.5% in 2025. On the one hand, the findings confirm the central role of established operational tools, particularly in complex or crisis situations; on the other hand, it shows a greater diversification of the organisations involved by 2025, due in particular to the increase in the share allocated to national CSOs.

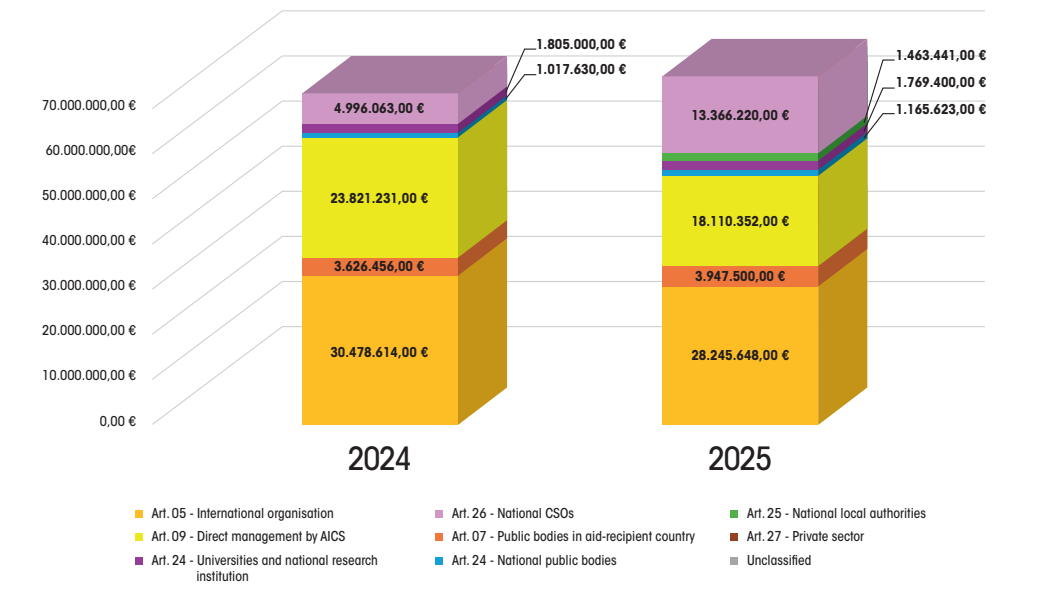
Public bodies in the countries receiving aid remain at a stable level, with around 3.6 million in 2024 and around 3.9 million in 2025. Though more modest in scale, the approved funding relating to universities and research institutions, national public bodies and national local authorities remains significant from the perspective of the diversity of stakeholders; the latter accounted for approximately €1.5 million in 2025.

Overall, Table 7 provides further insight into approved funding for disability by stakeholder: in 2024, implementation was heavily concentrated among international organisations and direct management by AICS, while in 2025 a more diversified distribution emerged, driven in particular by the increase in share allocated to national civil society organisations (CSOs). This trend is consistent with the progressive integration of disability into a wider range of implementation methods and cooperation partners.

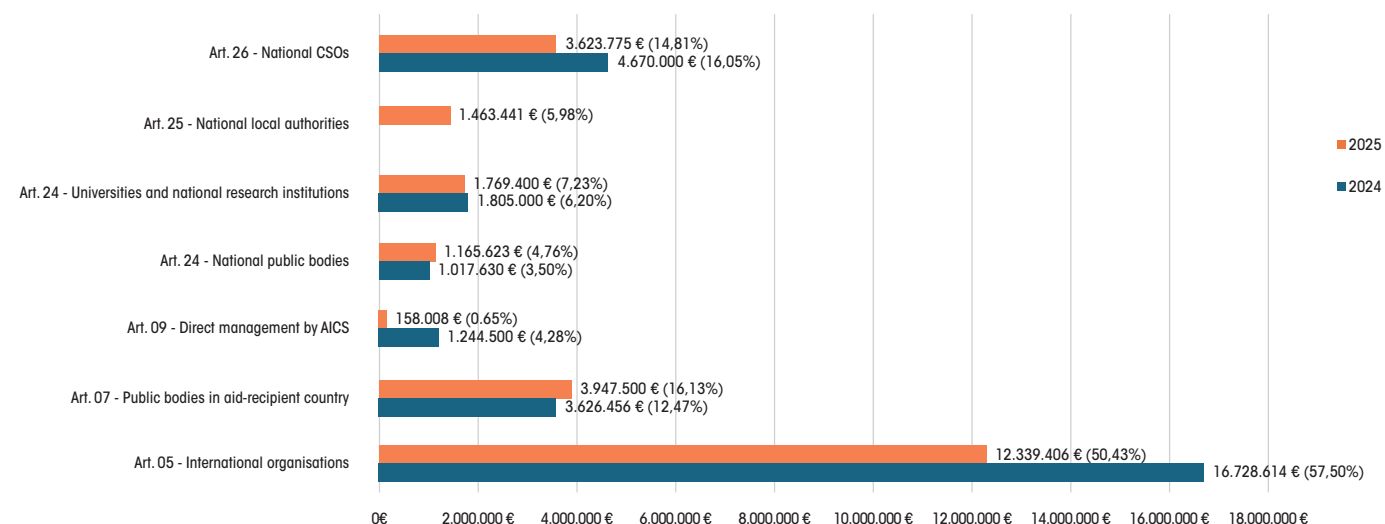
TABELLA 7 - Deliberato per progetti nel settore disabilità per tipo di stakeholder, 2024 e 2025

STAKEHOLDER(S)	2024 (EUROS)	2025 (EUROS)
Art. 05 – International organisations	30.478.614	28.245.648
Art. 07– Public bodies in aid-recipient country	3.626.456	3.947.500
Art. 09 – Direct management by AICS	23.821.231	18.110.352
Article 24 – National public bodies	1.017.630	1.165.623
Article 24 – Universities and national research institutions	1.805.000	1.769.400
Article 25 – National local authorities	0	1.463.441
Article 26 – National CSOs	4.996.063	13.366.220
Article 27 – Private sector	0	-8.570
Unclassified ⁹	300.000	647.950
Total	66.044.994	68.707.563

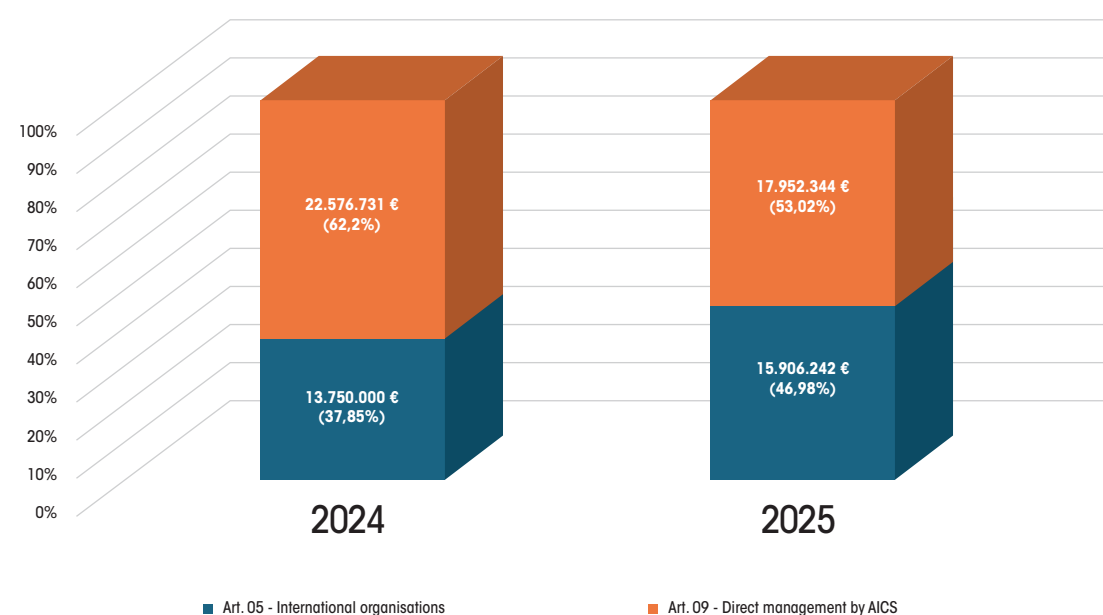
FIGURE 3 - APPROVED FUNDING FOR DISABILITY BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE, 2024 - 2025



9. This includes projects that do not fall within the categories set out in Italian Law 125/2014 and the following stakeholder codes: 100, 110, 130, 431, 521, 526, Undefined

FIGURE 3.1 - APPROVED FUNDING FOR DISABILITY BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE - STANDARD CHANNEL, 2024 - 2025 COMPARISON

Note on the figures: "Unclassified" stakeholder codes are excluded from Figures 3 and 3.1 (see methodological note no. 9).

FIGURE 3.2 - APPROVED FUNDING FOR DISABILITY BY STAKEHOLDER TYPE. EMERGENCY CHANNEL: COMPARISON BETWEEN 2024 AND 2025

2.7. MULTIPLE FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION RELATING TO GENDER AND DISABILITY

The relationship between gender and disability is a key factor in understanding the forms of exclusion that can affect women and girls with disabilities. Article 6 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognises that women and girls with disabilities are exposed to forms of multiple discrimination; General Comment No. 3¹⁰ of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities explores the implications of this in greater depth, highlighting how the combination of gender and disability can give rise to specific forms of exclusion, violence and limited access to services.

The geographical distribution of approved funding for disability reveals a high concentration in situations characterised by armed conflict, protracted crises or institutional fragility, such as Ukraine, Ethiopia, Lebanon, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In such contexts, the interplay of factors leading to discrimination based on gender and disability can have particularly severe consequences, increasing the risk of violence, displacement, exclusion from essential services and limited access to protection systems.

The same perspective is also evident in the sectors where the approved funding for disability is most heavily concentrated. As highlighted in the OECD-DAC analysis, education, health, protection and humanitarian response are areas in which the intersection of gender and disability requires particular attention, both at a planning stage and during monitoring.

To analyse these dynamics more systematically, the AICS makes use of complementary tools, including the Disability Marker and the OECD-DAC Gender Policy Marker¹¹. The combined use of these tools makes it possible to identify initiatives that address both dimensions and to assess the extent to which the Italian cooperation system takes into account the multiple forms of discrimination that can affect women and girls with disabilities.

10. UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, General Comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities (CRPD/C/GC/3).

11. Officially known as the Gender Equality Policy Marker, this OECD-DAC tool measures the extent to which initiatives are geared towards gender equality and the empowerment of women ("principal", "significant", "not targeted").

03

CONCLUSIONS

An analysis of the 2024–2025 two-year period confirms the AICS's continued efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Although the methodological scope differs from previous editions, which were based on disbursements, the use of the approved funding approach provides a clearer insight into the Agency's planning priorities and the weight given to disability at the initiative approval stage.

The findings show an increase in the approved funding for disability, from around €66 million in 2024 to around €68.7 million in 2025, and an increase in its share of the total approved funding. This trend confirms that disability is not addressed exclusively as a stand-alone sector, but also as a mainstreamed component across development programmes and humanitarian aid initiatives.

The distribution by marker highlights the central importance of the twin-track approach. On the one hand, there remain initiatives specifically or predominantly aimed at persons with disabilities; on the other, the largest share of the approved funding relates to categories involving the integration of disability within initiatives primarily focused on other sectors. This figure confirms the importance of mainstreaming, provided it is supported by objectives, activities, indicators and dedicated resources.

The analysis by channel also reveals a strong focus on disability in crisis situations and, at the same time, a strengthening of the standard channel in 2025. The geographical and sectoral distribution confirms the significance of fragile contexts and areas directly linked to access to fundamental rights, such as education, health, protection, essential services and infrastructure accessibility.

Overall, the 2024–2025 two-year period confirms that the inclusion of persons with disabilities is a key aspect of the AICS's work and requires an ongoing commitment to the quality of programme design, data collection, monitoring of outcomes, and the ability to understand disability in relation to other dimensions of exclusion, in particular gender, age, poverty, crises and institutional fragility.

ACRONYMS

AICS	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
B02	OECD-DAC code used to classify core contributions to multilateral organisations and global funds according to the form of cooperation
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
DAC	Development Assistance Committee (OECD Development Assistance Committee)
OCSE	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OCSE-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee
ONU	United Nations
OSC	Civil Society Organisations
WP-STAT	Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (OECD-DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics)

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