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Bridging the Gap

The NGOs approach to an inclusive
response to the pandemic

Webinar COVID19 Response

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ITALIAN AGENCY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION



AUSTRIAN
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iddc





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IDDC EU Task Group 7th March 2020

- Ensure that the EU global response plan to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent programmes are firmly grounded in the rights frameworks, including the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Ensure that the EU global response plan is comprehensive and creates synergies and collaborations across health, social protection, WASH, education, livelihoods and other sectors.
- Allocate adequate and additional funding to the EU global response plan
- Ensure and support the meaningful participation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and partner NGOs.



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- To make full use of a twin-track approach to both ensure that disability inclusion is mainstreamed throughout all COVID-19 response efforts as well as targeted actions and programmes to **support their livelihoods and access to essential services**
- **Enhance inclusive health response and social protection programmes at national and community levels**, to protect persons with disabilities from health risks related to COVID-19 and further socio-economic marginalisation.
- Support partner countries to **strengthen their health systems, to provide universal access to health services** without discrimination and social protection or other cash transfers that reach those most in need/vulnerable.
- Support partner countries to ensure **services that are essential to the health, wellbeing and livelihood of persons with disabilities are in place and meeting their needs.**
- In case of interruption of social support services due to social isolation, support partner countries in putting in place safe and quality **alternative services** (e.g. volunteers, social network, humanitarian actors) **and use of technology** to ensure the basic needs and rights of persons with disabilities are met.



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- Support **production and dissemination of accessible information on COVID-19.**
- Ensure the **provision of protective materials (e.g. masks) to all service providers supporting persons with disabilities**, such as personal assistants, social workers, interpreters, volunteers or family members.
- Support partner countries to **expand their social protection services to respond to the effects of COVID-19** on the global, local and national economy. Specific protective measures and support services should be put in place or reinforced to ensure that the most vulnerable groups can meet their needs.
- Ensure the **continuum of quality and inclusive education during and beyond this crisis**, allocating adequate resources for this, notably for the **provision of alternative, accessible education during school closures** that provides reasonable accommodations based on individual needs. Specific measures should also be put in place to encourage children with disabilities to go back to school and prevent permanent dropouts after the crisis ends.
- Prepare **targeted economic empowerment strategies, and cash transfer** programming for the most vulnerable groups, to mitigate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, towards recovering and building resilience for future shocks.



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Jutta Urpilainen at the HLPF



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‘when our children look back at this time...we will want them to be proud of how we pressed ahead with the recovery that is digital and resilient...and how we tackled inequalities and paid special attention to women, youth and persons with disabilities’



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Team Europe Global Response to Covid-19

Reflected the need for “**a fast, massive and coordinated response** to protect all people, save lives and tackle the economic fallout”, and identifies the leading roles the EU will play. Europe is the largest donor, providing about 57% of the total global development assistance”.

‘Team Europe’ approach, combining the firepower of the EU institutions, including the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the EU member states and their financial institutions, as well as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

‘Team Europe’ approach is also meant to enhance the EU leverage on the international scene and promote global coordination with multilateral institutions

Urgency of protecting the lives and livelihoods of all people, **leaving no-one behind**, special attention for Least Developed Countries, mostly in Africa, and countries in situations of fragility or affected by conflict, and by supporting partners in the Neighbourhood, the Western Balkans, Latin America and other regions.

Rights-based and people-centred approach that focuses on the most vulnerable and marginalised groups and on people in vulnerable situations, including the urban poor, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and their host communities, and persons belonging to religious minorities. The Council stresses the need to pay attention to gender, age and disabilities.



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Team Europe Global Response to Covid-19

The EU reallocates €13 billion keeping a strong focus on Africa and the Neighbourhood, articulated around three broad priorities:

- emergency response action: immediate needs to address the health crisis and related humanitarian emergency;
- support research, health and water systems: support to combat the spread of the coronavirus, improving hygiene, water and sanitation systems, supporting research to develop health solutions and making health systems more resilient;
- support to address the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 crisis, including in the longer-term recovery.

health systems | livelihoods | food security | digitalisation | gender inequality | human Rights | governance | LRRD & resilience



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Council Conclusions

Calls on the Commission to base the allocation of resources to partner countries on a joint needs assessment, in cooperation with partner countries and aligned with their response plans to COVID-19 in order to identify gaps and outline main priorities;

Calls on the Commission and the EU Member states to continue their efforts to accelerate the achievement of the objectives

Emphasises the need to ensure a link with medium and long-term programming;

Encourages further efforts to build on lessons learnt and good practices to ensure financial and contractual flexibility in the implementation of the global EU response to COVID-19;



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Council Conclusions

Welcomes the establishment of a joint monitoring system, in line with OECD-DAC guidance and including a possible COVID-19 marker, to ensure accountability and transparency in the use of resources mobilised and allocated, and calls on the involvement of all actors to swiftly and periodically provide up-to-date information on resources under Team Europe; furthermore, the Council emphasises the importance of ensuring transparency in the monitoring of budget support operations;

Stresses the importance for all the actors involved in Team Europe to coordinate actions, and share information and communication efforts at country level, within the EU, in partner countries and in global and multilateral fora.

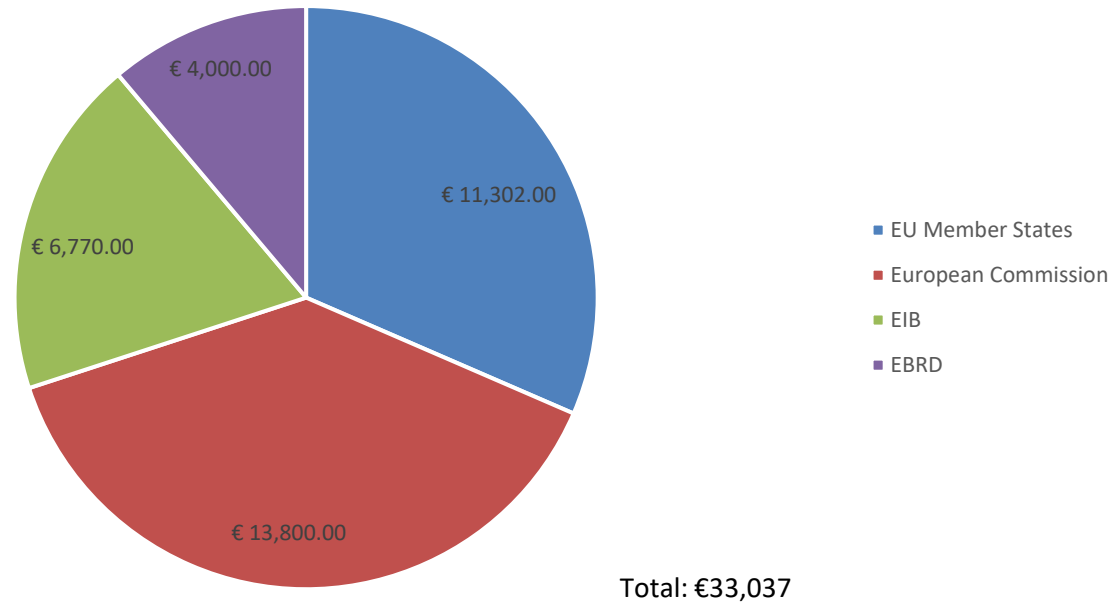
Supports the use of the term “Team Europe” in national or joint communication campaigns, visibility efforts and public announcements, and looks forward to the concrete steps by the Commission services and the EEAS towards a strong communications strategy for Team Europe



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Breakdown Team Europe Total's EUR Millions



Team Europe, EUR millions breakdown

5th June 2020

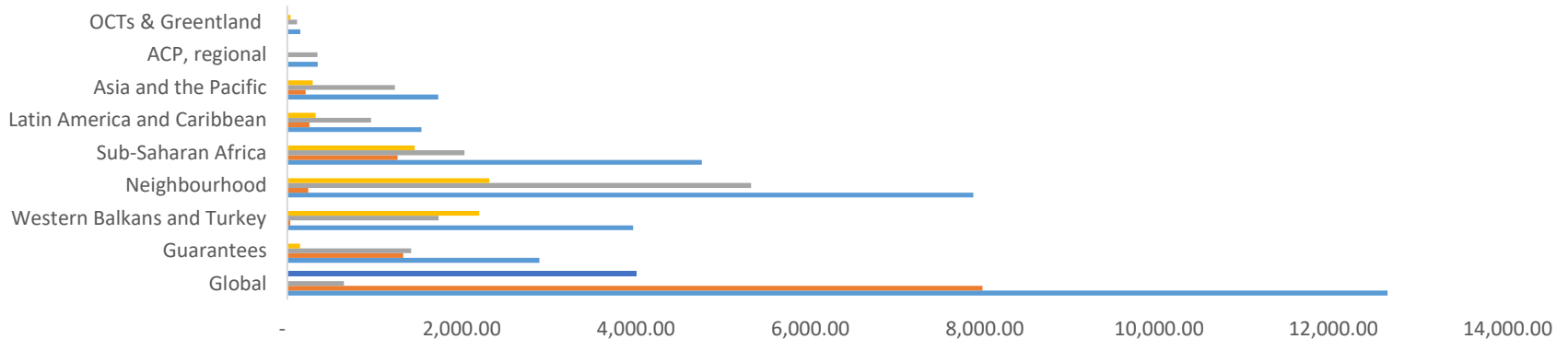


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Team Europe | 5th June 2020

Breakdown by Geographic Region



	Global	Guarantees	Western Balkans and Turkey	Neighbourhood	Sub-Saharan Africa	Latin America and Caribbean	Asia and the Pacific	ACP, regional	OCTs & Greentland
■ EBRD	4000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
■ EIB	0	145	2200	2315	1460	325	289	0	36
■ EC	648	1420	1734	5319	2031	959	1235	343	111
■ EU MS	7975	1327	33	238	1265	253	208	3	0
■ TOTAL	12,623.00	2,892.00	3,967.00	7,872.00	4,756.00	1,537.00	1,732.00	346.00	147.00

■ EBRD ■ EIB ■ EC ■ EU MS ■ TOTAL



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NGO | challenges

- Organisational
 - Staff on furlough/reduced hours, reduced capacity
 - Short-term financial challenges (institutional and private)
 - Longer-term challenge (economic downturn)
 - Return to focus on core work
- Operational
 - Access to project sites
 - Local lockdown rules and covid-19 prevention measures
 - Staff on lock-down in the ‘wrong places’
 - Projects adjusted for covid-19 response: *a lot of work*
 - *Some work scaled down – other scaled up*
 - Longer term impacts hard to assess



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IDDC | challenges observed for people with disabilities

- Covid-19 has exacerbated existing inequalities
- Person with disabilities have limited access to Information, Education and Communication (IEC)
- Inclusive information dissemination system not properly in place
- Social distancing and accessibility restrictions
- Person with disabilities not clearly targeted to receive support
- More needs to be done to recognise the role of DPOs and plan for more medium and long-term livelihood Support



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Disability Inclusive Development | Research

- Covid-19 has exacerbated existing inequalities
- Limited access to Information, Education and Communication (IEC)
- Social distancing and accessibility restrictions
- Person with disabilities not clearly targeted to receive support
- More needs to be done to recognise the role of DPOs
- Experienced discontinuation of required personal assistance, and lack of personal protective equipment for care-taking and personal assistance (some groups, such as deafblind people, are affected in particular)



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Disability Inclusive Development | Research

- Face discrimination and negligence when ill with Covid-19
- Do not have enough stock of essential hygiene material,
- Find it hard to keep an earning amidst a shutdown, applying as coping strategy the borrowing of money, leading to subsequent indebtedness
- Have difficulties to manage their food in the crisis situation, and as a consequence reducing number and quantity of meals
- Are struggling to access essential health care and assistive devices services, and regular medication during phases of restricted movement,
- Experience discontinuation of required personal assistance, and lack of personal protective equipment for care-taking and personal assistance (some groups, such as deafblind people, are affected in particular
- Face discrimination and negligence when ill with Covid-19



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Context | NEPAL

- Only 51% of the respondents were found aware on properly used of hygiene materials; among them only 13 % said that they have enough stock of essential hygiene materials for around two weeks whereas 38% respondents did not have required hygiene materials in stock.
- More than 40% people with disabilities were found with a challenge to manage their food in this crisis situation.
 - Among them, 35% people with disabilities were reducing their number and quantity of meals to cope with the challenge;
 - 44% were coping with borrowing money from their relatives and friends to purchase food items.
 - 23% of the respondents said that they do not have any storage of food in their houses.



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Context | NEPAL continued

- Due to prolonged lockdown situation, 76% said that their family income is affected adversely; 49% of the respondents have reported complete halt of their personal income.
- 27% have reported expressed that the crisis has interrupted their access to medical and assistive device services.
- 98% of the respondents were found not aware of any disability specific health preparedness actions for combating COVID-19 from local government.
- Only 22% have information on relief packages by government or other organizations provided to people with disabilities.



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Context | Bangladesh

- Local government disqualifying people with disabilities who receive a disability allowance from receiving other forms of relief.
- Disability allowance alone is not enough to sustain families who have lost their livelihood and does not help them to meet their basic needs.
- Financial support not always reaching lower income households
- Permanent livelihood solutions should differ for people with different disabilities. Equal access does not mean taking a one-size-fits-all approach. For some people with profound disabilities, adequate livelihood support might go beyond cash support, and entail supporting their family members to find alternative livelihoods



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IDDC Member Actions | Burkina Faso

Advocacy

- Advocacy letter to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSSA) plus to all INGDOs and DPOs (to consider person with disabilities in awareness raising activities + Information, communication)

Project

- Linking MoH with resources centres (hearing impaired; visually impaired; and persons with intellectual disabilities) to revise existing awareness raising tools to be disability inclusive
- Supporting resources centres (implementing partners of Light for the World) with materials to develop inclusive awareness raising materials
- Sharing practical information on Covid-19 risk management with partners
- Developing strategic Covid-19 Response proposal for Burkina partners (FR)



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Livelihoods

- Provision of food security and livelihood restoration support, including direct cash transfers
- Support to micro-enterprises led or involving persons with disabilities in their families to keep business during time of Covid-19 related restrictions
- Piloting inclusive business models that can be harnessed by people with disabilities during the COVID-19 crisis and can be continued post crisis, either in agriculture, in supplies, in manufacturing, or in the service industry
- Promotion of mobile cash for safe business transactions
- Develop rapid information on disability-inclusive social protection in the context of Covid-19.



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Health

- Distribution of hygiene packages
- Provision of health information tailored for persons with disabilities in accessible formats
- Undertake accessibility audits of Covid-19 treatment centers
- Provide Psychosocial counselling
- Orientate doctors taking up telemedicine consultations on disability inclusion
- Train Health workers and care givers to provide safe services and equip them with personal protective equipment.
- Support persons with disabilities to access essential assistive devices



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Education

- Strengthening the inclusion of children with disabilities in alternative home-based solutions for education
- Training and capacity building of staff of government, NGOs and DPOs on inclusive skills training and education services
- Adapt/develop disability-inclusive information, education and communication materials on COVID-19



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Covid-19 Disability Rights Monitor

<https://covid-drm.org/>

Available in multiple languages and need more entries from the global south – please disseminate.

Albania



“Autistic children find it difficult to stay indoors for long periods of time. The Government should make it possible for them to move with permission”



Family member of a person with disabilities

Argentina



“Information in general is never accessible to people living in institutions.”



Civil Society Organisation

Austria



„Punitive measures were imposed on people who do not understand the exit restrictions and who cannot comply with them due to their impairment.”



Organisation of Persons with Disabilities



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Thank you for your attention



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