



This project is funded by the European Union



Bridging the Gap II

Giving Women and Girls with Disabilities More Power to Feel Included

The work we did from 2018–2020

This report is about how **Bridging the Gap II** is helping the **EU (the European Union)** to make the world a better place for girls and women with disabilities.

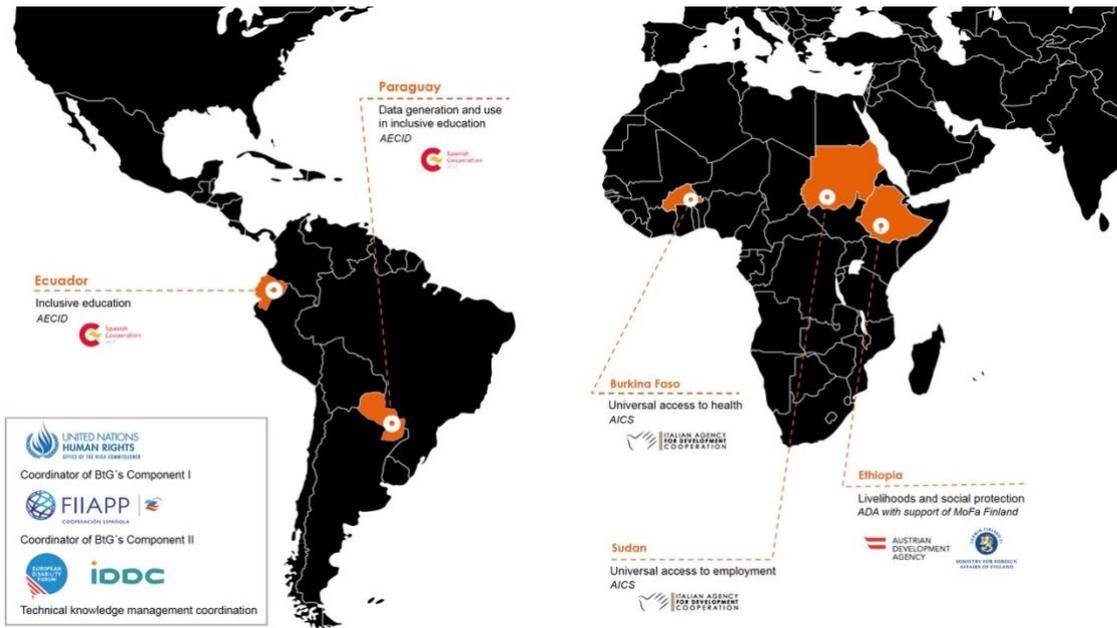


The **EU** helps poorer countries to make changes. They want every country to make sure people with disabilities are included in plans to make things better.



Bridging the Gap II works to improve the lives of people with disabilities in five different countries.

The countries are Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Paraguay and Sudan.



	<p>1 out of every 5 women have disabilities. These women also experience many other things which make life hard. These include violence and abuse, poor education, poor health, fewer work opportunities and not being in control of their own lives.</p>
	<p>Covid 19 has made life even harder for women. Many are more isolated.</p>

	<p>This report is to show good examples of support for women and girls in everyday life. These examples can be tried out in other places.</p>
	<p>Bridging the Gap II makes sure the needs of women and girls are included in all their work. They help women and girls to have education, jobs and the chance to lead their communities.</p>
	<p>They also have special projects just for women and girls with disabilities.</p>
	<p>Bridging the Gap II works with national government organisations, organisations of people with disabilities, and people who work to change things for communities in poor countries</p>



They train these groups how to include women and girls with disabilities and to make sure that women and girls have rights.



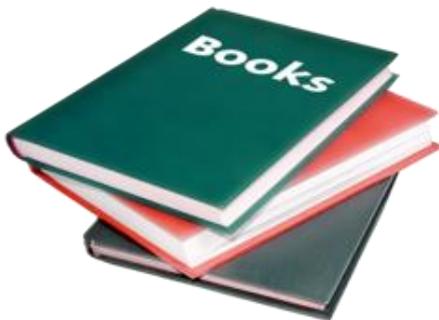
Bridging the Gap II has given grants to local groups in each country for different projects. For example in Ecuador a group made easy to read materials for children with intellectual disabilities.



In Sudan a grant paid for women with disabilities to get jobs. Women also received training on how to make things from leather.



In Ethiopia the support enabled women with disabilities to start a clothes business and a shower service.



Bridging the Gap II has made training manuals so other governments and organisations can learn how to include women and girls with disabilities in their work. It does this by sharing the good examples.



Bridging the Gap II says it is important that governments keep records about their work. This should include information about people's gender, disabilities and age. This makes sure that everyone gets opportunities for good healthcare and jobs.



They are also making sure everyone knows how women and girls with disabilities can help to make their communities better.



They share these stories at international meetings, workshops and on the radio.



They explain that women and girls with disabilities have often been hidden. But they have rights and they can make a difference in their communities.



These are some activities the project did that were good and should be shared and done in other places.



We must not think of people with disabilities as one big group. It is important to know about the special needs of individual women and girls with disabilities.



It is also important to include women with intellectual disability. In Burkina Faso they made sure this group were given kits to help stop them from getting Covid 19.



The project also showed good ways of working when they had training in the different countries. They helped the women and girls with disabilities, for example with sign language, braille and physical access.



They found that it worked best to get the women to come to meetings about things they were interested in. In Sudan the meeting was about crafts and setting up small businesses. Then they talked to the women about other important things like their rights.



Because the women with disabilities felt stronger they came up with other ideas. For example they decided to develop a group where the women helped each other in Sudan.



The women with disabilities were pleased to see celebrities with disabilities come to their training events.



There are things happening in every country to train people to include women and girls and those with disabilities.



This is very important work to help women and girls have their rights and make a more equal society. But change can take a long time.



There needs to be change to make sure women and girls are equals in organisations run by people with disabilities.



Bridging the Gap II has good examples where governments and different projects have worked together with organisations of disabled people. Working together can make change happen more quickly.



In some places Bridging the Gap II found that local rules had stopped women being included. For example they were not allowed to travel to take part in training.



In one place Bridging the Gap II had to work with the local people to show that they did have women and girls with disabilities in their community.

	<p>Bridging the Gap II has done a lot of good work. But there is still a lot of work to do to make sure women and girls with disabilities have the chance to be included and are treated equally.</p>
	<p>The way forward is to collect better information. It is also good to repeat the ideas and projects that have worked well in other places.</p>

