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Investing in rural people

## **President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional grant window to the Light for the World International for the Sparking Disability Inclusive Rural Transformation Programme**

### **Note to Executive Board representatives**

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**For: Approval**

## **Recommendation for approval**

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for the proposed grant as contained in paragraph 18.

### **I. Background and compliance with IFAD Policy for Grant Financing**

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its powerfully simple mission to “Leave No One Behind” have provided a potent driver for working on disability inclusion, as described in the legally binding Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). More than 180 countries have ratified the CRPD and this includes the countries covered by this proposal.
2. The United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy provides a strong foundation for sustainable and transformative progress on disability inclusion through all pillars of the work of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development. The strategy states that all United Nations entities, including IFAD, will need to become more disability inclusive. This will also require IFAD to support disability-inclusive programming in both existing projects and new projects by providing practical guidance for the field and headquarters; developing joint initiatives to leverage the institution’s strengths and accelerate progress; and undertaking evaluations to generate information on progress.
3. The IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025 encompasses three closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing strategic objectives: (i) increase rural people’s productive capacities; (ii) increase rural people’s benefits from market participation; and (iii) strengthen the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of poor rural people’s economic activities. The fact that the majority of persons with disabilities live in rural areas and rely on agriculture for a living makes it very relevant for IFAD and its government partners to target persons with disabilities across its projects.
4. IFAD has built up considerable expertise in the inclusion of women and youth in its programmes, and even the topic of disability inclusion is not new to IFAD. However, IFAD recognizes that it currently lacks a systematic and consistent approach to mainstreaming disability and ensuring disability inclusion within its programmes and projects. This was highlighted during the Consultation on the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD’s Resources in 2018, and resulted in commitment 2.2 – to increase the focus on the poorest and most vulnerable people within each country by revising the operational guidelines on targeting to establish the link between people with disabilities and IFAD’s interventions, and disaggregating data on persons with disabilities using the short set of questions of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics.
5. The proposed programme is in line with the goal and objectives of the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing (2015)<sup>1</sup> in: (i) promoting innovative, pro-poor disability-inclusive approaches and technologies that have the potential to be scaled up for greater impact; (ii) strengthening partners’ institutional and policy capacities to carry out disability-inclusive policy reforms; (iii) developing disability-inclusive rural development; (iv) strengthening the technical, organizational and institutional structures (government and non-government) involved in policy dialogue to enhance advocacy and policy engagement on disability-inclusive rural development; and (v) generating and sharing knowledge on disability-inclusive

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<sup>1</sup> See EB 2015/114/R.2/Rev.1.

rural development for development impact. The recipient was identified through competitive selection.

## II. The proposed programme

6. The overall goal of the programme is that persons with disabilities, particularly women and youth with disabilities, become active participants in, and benefit from, rural development projects tailored to fit the specific profiles of their disabilities, priority needs, constraints and opportunities. The objectives are:
  - IFAD rural development operations promote income generation for persons with disabilities through both formal and informal employment along the targeted agricultural and pastoral value chains;
  - IFAD, its implementing partners and other rural development professionals, networks and communities are aware of the barriers faced by persons with disabilities and are equipped with tools, methodologies and approaches to overcome those barriers through co-production of programmes and projects with all stakeholders.
7. The direct target group will be composed of 7,000 persons with disabilities, of which 2,450 will be women (35 per cent of total), and 2,450 will be youth (35 per cent). Indirect target groups include at least seven government units, four people's organizations and at least three United Nations bodies and international financial organizations.
8. The programme will be implemented over three years in the following four countries: Burkina Faso, India, Malawi and Mozambique. These countries have been selected according to the following criteria: (i) strong experience and presence of the consortium members;<sup>2</sup> (ii) opportunities and interest on the part of IFAD-supported projects to pilot innovative disability-inclusive approaches; (iii) assuring to the extent possible a wide geographical coverage. In addition, the programme envisions a helpdesk that is available for a wider set of projects, covering all five regional divisions, based on opportunity and interest to be involved in the initiative. These include Chad, Ecuador, Georgia, Iraq, Mali, Niger, Tunisia and Yemen. As the need arises, other IFAD-supported projects will also be allowed to reach out for support from the helpdesk. The programme will have the following components: (i) innovative support to promote decent and viable rural job opportunities for persons with disabilities; (ii) create an enabling environment for the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities; (iii) knowledge management and learning; and (iv) programme management.

## III. Expected outcomes/outputs

9. The programme is expected to have the following outcomes:
 

Outcome 1:

  - The current situation, needs and aspirations of persons with disabilities within the selected IFAD projects are understood.

Outcome 2:

  - Stakeholders are aware of the needs of persons with disabilities and able to make their work disability inclusive.
  - Organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and other organizations are able to effectively represent the needs of their membership.
  - The combined increase in disability confidence among mainstream rural economy stakeholders and the increased advocacy capacity of DPOs related

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<sup>2</sup> Namely, Light for the World International (the grant recipient), and the International Labour Organization and Procasur (the subrecipients).

to the rural economy, will lead to more disability-inclusive rural economy policies and programmes.

Outcome 3:

- The approach, reach and impact of the work to improve inclusivity for persons with disabilities are understood and communicated.

10. These outcomes will deliver the following results:

- Through understanding the needs and current situation of persons with disabilities and through building an active cohort of disability inclusion facilitators, the programme will ensure that at least 7,000 persons with disabilities receive tailored support and are fully engaged in economic activities within selected agricultural and pastoral value chains. It will also ensure that the incomes of identified persons with disabilities within selected IFAD projects increase by at least 30 per cent.
- By enabling IFAD staff to both adjust existing projects and develop new projects that are disability inclusive by helping stakeholders to be aware of the needs of persons with disabilities and able to make their work disability inclusive, and by supporting DPOs and other organizations to effectively represent the needs of their membership, the programme will deliver proven disability-inclusive approaches that can be integrated into rural development programmes that have been tested and documented, and are ready to be scaled up.
- The work to support DPOs to represent persons with disabilities as well as effectively communicating the approach, reach, and impact of this work to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities, the programme will make sure that the interests of rural persons with disabilities are reflected in government policies at the provincial, regional or national level, and in strategies and programmes.

#### **IV. Implementation arrangements**

11. Light for the World International is the grant recipient while the International Labour Organization and Procasur are subrecipients. Light for the World International will lead implementation and be responsible for workplans, budgets, and narrative and financial reporting.
12. The programme will be implemented by a coordinator who will lead, guide and supervise the planning and delivery of the annual workplan and budget and monitoring of the programme; establish regular communication with the IFAD grant manager; and build links with stakeholders. The coordinator will hold regular meetings to discuss progress, opportunities and challenges, and report accordingly to the programme steering committee and other stakeholders at the regional and country levels.
13. Progress will be evaluated in a participatory manner against the grant's objectives and expected outputs and progress relative to the annual workplans and budgets and the grant's logical framework outputs will be monitored on an ongoing basis. Six-monthly and annual progress reports will be produced by Light for the World International, and a one-page tracking sheet will be submitted each month.
14. The Environment, Climate, Gender and Social Inclusion Division in IFAD will be responsible for tracking progress, discussing implementation issues and obtaining outputs from Light for the World International.
15. In collaboration with the International Labour Organization, opportunities to strengthen linkages with the International Social Security Association will be explored, as a way to operationalize the memorandum of understanding signed by IFAD in 2019.

16. There are no deviations from the standard procedures for financial reporting and audits.

## V. Indicative programme costs and financing

17. The total budget of the grant is US\$3,476,000, with IFAD financing amounting to US\$2,500,000 and cofinancing amounting to US\$976,000, of which US\$405,000 in cash and US\$571,000 in-kind.

Table 1  
**Costs by component and financier**  
(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Cofinancing</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Innovative support to promote decent and viable rural job opportunities for persons with disabilities	1 352	386	1 739
2. Create an enabling environment for the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities	573	214	786
3. Knowledge management and learning	166	132	297
4. Programme management	409	244	654
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 500</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>3 476</b>

Table 2  
**Costs by expenditure category and financier**  
(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Cofinancing</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Salaries and allowances	848	487	1 335
2. Operating costs	260	-	260
3. Consultancies	61	12	73
4. Travel and allowances	295	64	360
5. Equipment and material	-	-	-
6. Goods, services and inputs	372	116	487
7. Workshops	144	115	259
8. Training	333	182	515
9. Management fees/overheads	185	-	185
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 500</b>	<b>976</b>	<b>3 476</b>

## VI. Recommendation

18. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Sparking Disability Inclusive Rural Transformation Programme, shall provide a grant of two million five hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$2,500,000) to Light for the World International for a three-year programme upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Gilbert F. Hougbo  
President

## Results-based logical framework

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
<b>Goal</b>	Persons with disabilities, particularly women and youth with disabilities, become active participants in, and benefit from, rural development projects tailored to fit the specific profiles of their disabilities, priority needs, constraints and opportunities.			
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>IFAD rural development programs promote disability-inclusive income generation for Persons with disabilities through both formal and informal employment along the targeted agricultural and pastoral value chains;</p> <p>IFAD and other rural development professionals and communities are aware of the barriers faced by Persons with disabilities and work to overcome it through co-production of programs and projects. income of the direct beneficiaries increased by at least 30%.</p>	<p>% of IFAD project participants who are persons with disabilities (disaggregated by degree and type of economic activity, type of disability, gender, youth and country-location).</p> <p># of targeted IFAD programs that have developed and adopted a disability inclusive approach to income generating activities.</p> <p># of consultations with persons with disabilities on co-production and co-design of project activities.</p> <p># of persons with disabilities who experience at income increase of &gt;=30%.</p>	<p>Database</p> <p>Disability inclusion policies</p> <p>Documentation of consultation, including meeting minutes and planning documents.</p> <p>Survey responses</p> <p>Baseline data on participant earnings and income, disaggregated by persons with disabilities.</p>	Existing projects may lack the staff, knowledge, and budgets to retro-fit disability inclusion into activities.
<b>Outputs and Outcomes</b>	<p>At least 7 000 persons with disabilities received tailored support (including technical and technological) and are fully engaged in economic activities along the selected agricultural and pastoral value chains.</p> <p>Disability-inclusive approaches that can be integrated in rural development programmes tested, documented and ready to be scaled up.</p> <p>Interests of rural persons with disabilities reflected in government policies at provincial, regional or national level, strategies or programmes.</p>	<p># of persons with disabilities who have received tailored support.</p> <p>Documentation of tested approaches available for use by IFAD staff.</p> <p># of IFAD staff that provide feedback on their use of the documented disability-inclusive approaches.</p> <p>Representatives of disabled people's organisations at provincial, regional and/or national levels report changes in government policies, strategies or programmes.</p>	<p>Monitoring and evaluation data on participants, disaggregated for Persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Documented approaches</p> <p>Surveys</p> <p>Surveys, policies, strategies and programme documentation.</p>	There are at least 7,000 Persons with disabilities engaged in participating IFAD projects. The IFAD project teams are willing and able to participate in introducing disability inclusive practices in their projects following training and support. There is flexibility within existing projects' activities and budgets to make adaptations for disability inclusion.
<b>Key Activities by Component</b>	<b>Component 1. Innovative support to promote decent and viable rural job opportunities for Persons with disabilities</b>			
<b>1.1</b>	Conduct a baseline survey within the intervention areas to identify and characterize Persons with disabilities and assess their specific needs based on opportunities available within the agricultural and pastoral value chains and related jobs.	<p>Publication of a research report detailing findings and recommendations from the rapid surveys (1 report per participating country programme).</p> <p>Publication of rapid survey approaches, incorporating Washington Group Questions and methodologies</p> <p># IFAD AWB&amp;Ps developed and approved</p>	<p>A validated and approved survey</p> <p>The database</p> <p>Published approach</p>	The existing data can be accessed for guiding the selection of survey respondents and for cross-referencing existing data.
<b>1.2</b>	Common planning achieved with PIU and PSU	# IFAD AWB&Ps developed and approved	AWB&Ps	
<b>1.3</b>	DIF academies are established and are training Disability Inclusion Facilitators.	<p># of DI Facilitators trained (disaggregated by gender, type of disability, and by country).</p> <p># of Learning Routes organized per region</p>	<p>Training materials</p> <p>Training records</p> <p>A cohort of certified DIFs</p> <p>Documentation of LRs</p> <p>Design documentation</p>	
<b>1.4</b>	<p>Foster social and technical innovation labs and conduct solid evidence based research</p> <p>Identification of partners and development of partnership (with local/national enterprises to ensure technology transfer for the manufacturing of farm equipment for example or the processing of agricultural products)</p> <p>For a small number of selected tools and technologies, prototypes will be developed which can be tested and rolled out.</p>	<p># ideas generated through a co-creation process</p> <p># products taken to prototype stage</p> <p># Research outcomes in thematic areas e.g. access to finance, women's economic empowerment</p> <p>Publication of approach to disability inclusive value chain and analysis</p> <p># of MoU signed with enterprises for equipment manufacture (disaggregated by value chain, by impairment type, and by country).</p> <p># of prototypes developed, tested and ready for roll-out.</p>	<p>Physical products</p> <p>Research papers</p> <p>Published approach</p>	

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
1.5	Support to the beneficiaries. The support can concern a group or individuals and will be based on demand and the specific need of the beneficiaries. It will include a combination of training, technical support, financing, advisory services, supply of farming tools and agricultural inputs, exchange visits and knowledge sharing etc. The Grant recipient will mobilise dedicated business advisors [DIFs] to accompany each need.	# of trainings and services delivered by DIFs (disaggregated by value chain, by type of service, and by country).  # of persons with disabilities who have participated in exchange visits via the integrated IFAD programmes (disaggregated by value chain, and by country).	Records of meetings and actions Details of delivered services and interventions  Exchange visit records	Budgets are available to develop new services and technologies and their adoption. IFAD staff are able to adopt change into their project plans and the evaluation of these plans from supervision missions will continue.
	<b>Component 2: Create an enabling environment for the social and economic inclusion of Persons with disabilities</b>			
2.1	Awareness raising activities. Increasing awareness, knowledge, skills, and tools of IFAD PSUs and PIUs, implementing partners, and service providers at different levels (families, households, communities, government counterparts, relevant ministries, development partners, NGOs, businesses) aimed at changing mentalities and removing barriers that prevent the social and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities.	# of staff from IFAD PSUs and PIUs, implementing partners, and service providers trained on disability inclusion. # of disability inclusion resources and tools made available to IFAD staff, IFAD implementation units and implementing partners via online publication (disaggregated by language). # of IFAD PSUs and PIUs, implementing partners, and service providers report improved knowledge of and commitment to disability inclusion (as a result of training and resources available).	Training records Training materials & tools Download and access statistics  Surveys	The IFAD implementation units and implementing partners' staff are available for training. It is possible to access project proposals in development to assess the activities and indicators regarding disability inclusion.
2.2	Links of regional, national and local DPOs with IFAD projects strengthened	# of DPOs supported to engage with relevant organisations to advocate for inclusive and pro-persons with disabilities policy.	Records of training and support given to various organisations.	People within DPOs and apex organisations are available for this work.
2.3	Policy engagement activities. The project will support advocacy activities for decision-makers to carry out disability inclusive policy reforms, develop disability-inclusive rural development and strengthen the technical, organizational and institutional structures (government and non-government) involved in policy dialogue.	# of decision makers and policy makers aware of persons with disabilities' needs and inclusive approaches. # of policies and briefing papers and sessions that are inclusive of persons with disabilities. # of policy dialogue events at local, national and regional level. # of Learning Routes organized per region. # of guidance documents published	Records of awareness raising activities and post-activity surveys.  Analysis of policies, papers and sessions Events documentation LR documentation	Decision makers and policy makers are willing and available for awareness raising and engagement with Persons with disabilities
2.4	Coordinate a helpdesk that is also available to other IFAD projects beyond the selected ones.	# of interactions with helpdesk # of items developed and published [at least 20] # of policy briefs published # of flagship publications and/or audio-visual and/or other knowledge products with tools, results, stories from the field and good practices disseminated to regional and global audiences;	Helpdesk records disaggregated by topics. User satisfaction surveys and follow up on subsequent interactions. quarterly evidence-digests Content items Web and social media statistics Policy briefs Shared and published items	
	<b>Component 3: Knowledge Management and Learning</b>			
3.1	Knowledge Management provides evidence	80% of KM plan deliverables produced	KM plan deliverables	
3.3	Coordination of communication via ICT platforms	# of interactions	Web statistics	
	<b>Component 4: Programme Management</b>			
4.1	Coordination of project is solid and sound	Reporting is done on time Audit findings are good, and recommendations followed up	Reports Audit report	
4.2	Monitoring and evaluation evidence based and robust	Mid term and final evaluation produced	Mid term and final evaluation	