



## **RESOURCE GUIDE TO DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES**

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## Abbreviations

ADB	The Asian Development Bank
ADBG	The African Development Bank Group
AKF	The Aga Khan Foundation
CBM	Christian Blind Mission
CIFF	Children's Investment Fund Foundation
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
DPO	Disabled Persons Organization
DPOD	Disabled Peoples Organization in Denmark
DRF	Disability Rights Fund
EC	The European Commission
EU	The European Union
FIDACA	Fédération Internationale des Associations Catholiques d'Aveugles
HI	Handicap International
IADB	The Inter-American Development Bank
ICCPR	The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IDDC	International Disability and Development Consortium
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LCI	Lions Club International
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NDF	The Noor Dubai Foundation
NF	The Nippon Foundation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NORAD	The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OSF	Open Society Foundation
PWD	Persons With Disabilities
RBA	Rights Based Approach (to advocacy)
RI	Rehabilitation International Rotary International
RMC	Regional Member Country
SI	Sightsavers International
SIDA	The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UDHR	The Universal Declaration on Human Rights
UK	United Kingdom
UN	The United Nations

UN CRPD	The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UNDP	United National Development Program
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNF	The United Nations Foundation
UNICEF	The United Nations Children’s Fund
UNO	The United Nations Organization
VSO	Voluntary Services Overseas
WB	The World Bank
WBG	The World Bank Group
WBU	The World Blind Union
WCMP	World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists
WHO	The World Health Organization

# **1. General Introduction**

## **1.1 Purpose and Use of the Guide**

This resource guide has been assembled in an attempt to provide assistance to organizations seeking to approach funding agencies to acquaint them with the needs and rights of people who are blind or partially sighted. As we know, those needs and rights, even if recognized, are seldom fully understood by those who design, fund or implement development projects; and in order to change that situation, approaches must be made and information shared. In short, relationships must be built.

As is the case in all project-related development work, the essential element is the relationships which exist between donors, project managers and the intended beneficiaries of the projects themselves. These relationships must be carefully forged, nurtured and maintained, and this guide is intended to assist you in taking the first step towards forming those all-important relationships with agencies working in your locality.

It is the hope of those who created this guide that the information, ideas and suggestions it contains will help in planning your approach to funding agencies to introduce them to a segment of society all too often ignored when development strategies are set in place and funds are allocated.

## **1.2 Format**

Following the introductory material, the guide contains a lengthy list of various types of funding agencies and foundations which provide funding for development projects. Some, as it will be seen, are relatively small and operate with limited scope, while others provide funding of almost mega-proportions. For each of the agencies listed, you will find information such as:

- Website;
- Vision and mission;
- Thematic focus;
- Focused target group (if applicable);
- Focused target area (if applicable);
- Operational geographic location/countries; and,
- Disability work.

Unfortunately, it has not proved possible to find information on all these topics for every agency listed, but as much information as possible has been provided. In some cases, reference is made to web pages which offer

a fuller discussion or more detailed information than could be included in this guide.

### **1.3 Scope and Limitations**

In the realms of development funding, no document can ever answer all questions or anticipate all situations. This guide is intended to serve as a starting-place only. It does not take the place of local research which will still have to be done by organizations planning to approach agencies for the first time. All the agencies have been included, however, because of their international scope of operations, even though, of course, they do not all operate everywhere.

The agencies you will find listed all operate internationally, although many of them concentrate on specific geographical areas or societal sectors. This guide is not able to offer specific advice to individual blindness organizations based upon where they are or the social contexts within which they work. Rather, it seeks to provide general guidelines and suggestions which, it is hoped, will serve as a basis for laying out strategies particular to individual locations and circumstances. As noted, local research will always be necessary.

The guide should be seen as one element in the research you will do. As you set about the task, we hope the guide will prove useful, but never forget to consult the World Blind Union (WBU) website at <http://www.worldblindunion.org>. The site is a large depository of useful information, documents and materials, and should become a central element in research.

Finally, it should be emphasized that this guide is not a handbook on the design of projects, nor is it intended to be a manual on the preparation and submission of project proposals. It is a compilation of information on funding agencies with which individual organizations might wish to engage for initial advocacy purposes. After all, they will not pay attention to the needs and rights of people who are blind or partially sighted if they do not know what those needs and rights are.



## **2. Approaching the Agencies**

### **2.1 Identifying the Targets**

No one knows the needs of people in your locality who are blind or partially sighted better than your organization and its members, and it is necessary to identify funding agencies which will be interested in hearing about those needs. Therefore, the obvious first step is to decide which agencies are the best to approach. Check out the lists in this guide, consult their websites and see which ones may be of most use to you in the locality you work in, and find out if they have local offices. You may also wish to do some research regarding other agencies not mentioned here which have local representatives as well. In all cases, however, the clearly essential thing is to identify agencies practical for you to visit which work in either the disabilities or social development sectors. To approach agencies which have a history of funding projects in the alleviation of poverty, education, training, employment preparation and so on, according to the needs you have identified in your locality, is certainly the best plan. So do take the time needed to find your targets; learn all you can about them and then set your strategy for the initial approach.

### **2.2 The Initial Approach**

#### Local Offices:

Most of the agencies listed in this guide operate globally, and for the most part have head offices in the world's major business centers outside the developing countries, but many of them have local offices around the world as well. It is important to note that while these local offices do not set overall policies or goals, they are certainly consulted when those policies and goals are set at headquarters level. Thus, it is incorrect to believe there is no value in visiting them. They are, in actual fact, the means by which you will be able to influence the agency as a whole when it sets about designing its strategy for work in your country, locality or social sector. The local offices are on the front lines. They are the closest to the action.

An important point to bear in mind is that the people you will talk to during your visit will more than likely be extremely busy and have many other commitments to attend to. In fact, some perseverance and patience may be necessary to secure a meeting in the first place, and you should be prepared to expend the necessary time and effort. An interview of half an hour, or an hour at most, is customary, so it is vital that you be well prepared and very concise in your presentation. Be sure always to allow time for questions and clarifications as well. Select your points of emphasis carefully so as not to overwhelm your listeners with information.

### Materials and Preparation:

It is absolutely vital that you go fully prepared when you approach an agency through its local office to begin the process of forming a productive relationship. You need to go armed not only with all the facts about your own needs and rights, but also with an ability to make it clear to those you meet that you have done your research and know as much as possible about them and what they do in development work. It is important to be able to show your visit is not simply a random “shot in the dark” just hoping for the best, but is the outcome of a careful decision-making process; the first step in creating a relationship. And, as noted above, relationship building is an absolutely indispensable and essential part of the entire strategy of the initial approach.

In the sections below you will find some suggestions as to materials you could consider taking with you to leave behind. Your visit and what you say will soon be forgotten if there is nothing tangible to remind people of what was discussed. You will also find some ideas on strategies you might consider adopting when you make your presentation.

### Website Evaluation:

As we all know, there are a myriad of websites to be found which, because of their design, are either partly or completely inaccessible to people using screen readers or magnifiers. One possible technique for paving the way for your visit is a letter commenting on the website of the agency you are targeting. In Annex 1 and 2, you will find templates of letters, the first being a complimentary one, and the second being one which points out to the agency that their site is not fully accessible. In the latter case, an excellent tool for relationship building would be to offer to work with the local office to help them prepare a document for their headquarters detailing ways to make their site as fully accessible as it should be.

If the site concerned is accessible, your discussions can begin with a reference to your letter followed by additional compliments and thanks. The benefits of such an approach can be dramatic.

### Fact Sheet on Vision Loss:

It is quite likely the agencies you decide to visit will know little or nothing about blindness and its related issues in your particular local area, so one of the most useful items to take along for your initial visit to an agency’s local office is a fact sheet. You will find a suggested format for such a fact sheet in Annex 3, but in essence this sheet should contain basic information about the number of people living with vision loss, their age

distribution, levels of education, employment statistics, etc. In fact, a good fact sheet can form the basis for the discussions you have. A good fact sheet will make the situation of blind and partially sighted people abundantly clear to anyone who reads it.

### Case Studies:

An excellent way to demonstrate the points you are making is through the use of case studies. If possible, go prepared with examples of projects that address disability issues and/or are inclusive of persons with disabilities, and be prepared to analyze them. In addition, it can be helpful to show an example of a project which fails to take disability issues into account and be prepared to explain the shortcomings and ramifications for people who are blind or partially sighted in your area. After all, an agency which, for example, aims at the eradication of poverty will never reach its goal if it ignores persons with vision loss, who are often amongst the poorest of the poor. Vision loss, it is often said, is both a cause and consequence of poverty.

### Summary Sheet:

It is likely that the people you speak to will have little or no knowledge of you or your organization, and it is, therefore, often wise to leave a brief written statement – two pages at most – which summarizes your main points. Together with the Fact Sheet discussed above, this short document will serve to remind those you have spoken to of your visit, who you represent and the major reasons for the inclusion of people who are blind or partially sighted in the planning of their future programs, projects and development strategies.

## **2.3 The Combined Rights and Needs Based Approach**

In several of the sections above there is mention of the needs and the rights of persons living with blindness or partial sight. It is recommended that when you engage in discussions at the local offices of your targeted funding agencies, you not only acquaint them with the needs of people with vision loss, but also with their rights as citizens. You will, of course, be very familiar with needs, but in Annex 4 you will find for your reference a brief introduction to the concept of the rights based approach (RBA) and its use as an adjunct to the discussions on needs.

## **2.4 The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

A central element in any discussion of the rights of persons who are blind or partially sighted is the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD). The adoption of the Convention by the UN General Assembly on December 13, 2006, has empowered blind and partially sighted persons across the globe to claim their rights and has made states, the private sector and the institutions of civil society become accountable for the protection and preservation of those rights. This Convention places power squarely in the hands of persons with disabilities enabling them to negotiate effectively with stakeholders at all levels to secure, enjoy, and exercise all human rights on an equal basis with others. This instrument not only strengthens the legal position of persons with disabilities, but also contributes significantly to the on-going discussions of human rights in general, no matter whether those discussions are set within a moral, ethical or legal framework.

When approaching the funding agencies you have chosen, it would be wise to go armed with a clear understanding of the UN CRPD. If your country has ratified the Convention, your case is that much stronger since projects, programs, and other such initiatives must operate within the laws of the land. What follows here in point form is a brief outline of the major elements of the UN CRPD, and a fuller treatment can be found in Annex 5. A complete UN CRPD toolkit can be found on the WBU website, as well as material on advocacy in this context. The UN CRPD opened for signatures on March 30, 2007, and came into force on May 3, 2008. To find the list of signing and ratifying countries, see [Status of ratification, reservations and declarations](#).

Key elements of the Convention:

- Negotiated through an equal partnership between persons with disabilities and their organizations, in which the WBU was actively involved in representing the perspectives of blind and partially sighted persons;
- Embraces the social model of disability and proclaims respect for differences and acceptance of disability as a part of human diversity;
- Reinforces the concept of interdependence in all human societies;
- Recognizes the multiple factors of marginalization and expresses specific support for women and children with disabilities;
- Mandates demonstration of the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

- Requires the compliance of private entities;
- Enshrines rights enablers such accessibility, inclusive and universal design, reasonable accommodation, habilitation and rehabilitation towards full and effective enjoyment of rights.

## **2.5 Mainstreaming and Inclusivity**

As we would all agree, the goal towards which we strive in the advocacy work we do is an inclusive society. The terms mainstreaming and inclusivity are used constantly, but their meaning may not necessarily be understood by those you will meet when you approach an agency.

The two terms are often used interchangeably, but it is helpful to think of them as separate but related elements of social change. *Mainstreaming* is the process by which an inclusive society comes into being, and it refers to the progressive removal of the numerous social and cultural barriers which prevent persons who are blind or partially sighted from participating fully and independently in all aspects of life. We all know what those barriers are: lack of education, lack of employment, poor health care, poor housing, public ignorance, prejudice and so on. At some point, when all the barriers are gone, we would then be able to say that mainstreaming is finished and an *inclusive* society has been achieved. It may be easier to convey the goal of inclusivity if it is described as the end product of mainstreaming, and the major point for the funders to hear is that their strategies for development must include measures to carry mainstreaming forward towards inclusivity.

It is wise to remember that mainstreaming is a complex process, and inclusivity is not always easy for people to conceive of. The agency representatives you talk to may well be familiar with the terms at a general level, and may well feel they have enough to do in mainstreaming those living in poverty, those lacking education, those who are socially or politically marginalized and so on. You may well be presenting them with a new population to think about mainstreaming, and they might feel as if they have too much to do already. However, those who are blind or partially sighted are likely to be living in poverty, lacking in education, etc. and so a good technique here is to point out that in turning some of their attention to people who are blind or partially sighted, the agencies are not really dealing with a new population at all when it comes to mainstreaming. It is all part of the development process and part of everyone's efforts to create better lives for those who are disadvantaged.

## **2.6 Disability Audit**

Another very helpful technique in relationship building is an offer to provide what we might call a disability audit of a project currently being implemented locally by the agency you are visiting. This amounts to an analysis of the project which will demonstrate its relevance, usefulness or help – of lack of them – to people who are blind or partially sighted. In all likelihood, the project will offer little or nothing to your members, and thus you will be able to show how the project fails to meet the needs or recognize the rights of people who are blind or partially sighted.

This should be done as a way of providing information, a way to encourage the agency being visited to see how the audited project, which may be excellent in many other respects, fails to meet the needs of people who are blind or partially sighted. It is an excellent way to illustrate the way mainstreaming is supposed to work, but probably is not.

This audit need not be a lengthy process. It will involve examining written information on the project (its terms of reference, scope, goals, anticipated outcomes, reports and the like) and, if possible, a visit to observe the implementation where it is actually taking place. Further information can be gathered from interviews with project personnel. From this research and observation, it should be possible to report on the extent to which the project does or does not address the needs of persons who are blind or partially sighted, and also to make suggestions as to how such projects can be more inclusive in the future.

## **2.7 Staff Training**

Unless they are extremely small, even the local offices of the agencies covered in this guide will have staff in addition to the person or persons you will talk to when you are there. An excellent means of creating solid partnerships with the agency is to offer to deliver training workshops for their staff. It is quite likely the staff will not be familiar with, for example, blindness issues as social and cultural challenges, or with the concept and operation of assistive technology.

You may choose to go prepared with a proposal for such workshops, or simply make a verbal offer and present a more detailed proposal later on; but whichever method you decide upon, these workshops can be extremely helpful in raising awareness and enhancing sensitivity to blindness issues. Above all, they will help you create the all-important relationships upon which future cooperative initiatives can be built, and upon which their success will depend.

## **3. International Funding Bodies**

### **3.1 International Development Agencies**

#### **Introduction**

These agencies operate at a global level, though not all of them are active everywhere. They are headquartered in different countries, and draw their financial support from a variety of public, private and corporate sources.

#### **Suggested International Development Agencies**

##### **3.1.1 ActionAid**

[www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)

ActionAid is an agency which, for the past several decades, has worked in over 40 countries to end poverty and injustice. Working directly with the people affected, they claim the legal, constitutional and moral right to food and livelihood, shelter, education, healthcare, dignity and a voice in decisions that impact their lives.

#### Vision:

A world without poverty, patriarchy and injustice in which every person enjoys the right to life with dignity.

#### Mission:

To work with the poor and excluded in their struggle to eradicate poverty, patriarchy and injustice.

#### Thematic focus:

Food and livelihood, shelter, education, healthcare, dignity and a voice in decisions that affect their lives.

#### Focused target group:

The poor, excluded, women, children, displaced people, slum dwellers, indigenous people and persons with disabilities.

#### Operational geographic locations/countries:

Developing countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

#### Disability work:

Has supported disability programs and projects in many countries.

### **3.1.2 CARE International**

[www.care-international.org](http://www.care-international.org)

CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. They place special focus on working alongside poor women because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty.

Thematic focus:

Women's empowerment, water, sanitation, conflict and emergency aid.

Focus target group:

Women, the poor and excluded.

Operational geographic locations/countries:

Developing countries worldwide.

Disability work:

Has supported disability programs and projects.



### **3.1.3 Christian Aid**

[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Christian Aid is a Christian organization which insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. They provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where the need is great, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes.

Vision:

An end to poverty.

Mission:

Working globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality.

Thematic focus:

Health, education, livelihoods, conflict, emergency and the environment.

Focused target group:

The poor and excluded, those affected by conflict and emergency, women, children and other marginalized communities.

Focused target area:

They are at work in over 60 countries.

Operational geographical location/countries:

Developing countries.

### **3.1.4 Oxfam**

[www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org)

[www.oxfam.org.uk](http://www.oxfam.org.uk)

Oxfam is a global movement of people who share the belief that, in a world rich in resources, poverty is not inevitable. It is an injustice which can, and must, be overcome.

Vision:

A world without poverty.

Mission:

People have the power to change their lives, and the lives of those around them. All they need is a little lift.

Thematic focus:

Food, water, health and education, women's rights, businesses and poverty, conflicts and disasters, aid and development, citizens' rights, climate change, poverty in the United Kingdom (UK).

Focused target group:

The poor, excluded persons and communities, women, children, those affected by conflict and emergency, indigenous people and persons with disabilities.

Focused target area:

Working in more than 90 developing countries.

Operational geographical location/countries:

Developing countries.

Disability work:

Has supported disability programs and projects in many countries.

### **3.1.5 Plan International**

[www.plan-international.org](http://www.plan-international.org)

Plan is an international development organization operating in 51 countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas to promote and protect the rights of children.

Vision:

A world in which all children realize their full potential in societies that respect people's rights and dignity.

Mission:

Plan International aims to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of deprived children in developing countries, through a process that unites people across cultures and adds meaning and value to their lives, by:

- enabling deprived children, their families and their communities to meet their basic needs and to increase their ability to participate in, and benefit from, their societies;
- building relationships to increase understanding and unity among peoples of different cultures and countries; and by,
- promoting the rights and interests of the world's children.

Thematic focus:

Child rights.

Focused target group:

Children.

Focused target area:

Africa, Asia and the Americas.

Operational geographical location/countries:

The developing countries.

Disability work:

Has supported disability programs and projects in many countries.

### **3.1.6 Save the Children**

<https://www.savethechildren.net/>

Save the Children is the world's leading independent organization for children, working in more than 120 countries. They save children's lives by fighting for their rights. Save the Children comprises Save the Children International and 30 member organizations working to deliver change for children.

Vision:

A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Mission:

To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Thematic focus:

Health, education, child protection, child rights, nutrition and humanitarian response.

Focused target group:

Children from excluded and poorest of the poor communities including children with disabilities.

Focused target area:

Developing countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Operational geographic location/countries:

More than 120 countries.

Disability work:

Has supported programs and projects for children with disabilities in many countries.

### **3.1.7 World Vision**

[www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org)

[www.wvi.org](http://www.wvi.org)

World Vision is a global Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice.

Vision:

For every child, life in all its fullness. Our prayer: For every heart, the will to make it so.

Mission:

An international partnership of Christians whose mission is to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in working with the poor and oppressed to promote human transformation, seek justice and bear witness to the good news of the Kingdom of God

Thematic focus:

Relief, conflict, emergency, child rights.

Focused target group:

Children including children with disabilities.

Focused target area:

Active in more than 70 developing countries.

Operational geographical location/countries:

Developing countries worldwide.

Disability work:

Has supported disability programs and projects in many countries.

## 3.2 Bilateral Agencies

### Introduction

The organizations in this section are the Official Development Assistance (ODA) branches of various national governments, which helps to explain their somewhat greater concentration on political issues and institutions. The descriptor “bilateral” indicates that cooperation and aid flow directly from the donor agency (country) to the recipient without passing through the hands of any third party organization. In deciding which of these agencies might be approached, it is wise to research their proposal procedure since not all of them are willing to respond to proposals submitted by individual organizations. Some negotiate only at the government-to-government level. However, visits to their local offices – usually located in embassies, consulates or similar diplomatic posts – and continuing contact with them represent forms of advocacy which can influence future decisions made by the agencies in their home countries as they identify priorities, target communities and populations for future assistance.

### Suggested Bilateral Agencies

#### 3.2.1 Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)

[www.um.dk/en/danida-en/](http://www.um.dk/en/danida-en/)

#### Vision and Mission:

“The Right to a Better Life.” The objective of Denmark’s development policy is to fight poverty and promote human rights. Through efforts to combat poverty and promote human rights and growth, Denmark’s development cooperation will work to support the creation of societies that ensure people’s rights and promote equality, including access to decent employment, education, health and social protection. With emphasis on the European Union (EU), Denmark will work to create better coherence between policies that impact developing countries.

#### Thematic focus:

Human rights and democracy – Denmark will:

- Support democratic elections, parliaments, political parties, civil society and a free and critical media;
- Promote good governance and the establishment of democratic institutions, including setting up and access to effective, independent judicial systems and complaint mechanisms, enhanced capacity and

decentralization of public administration and the fight against corruption;

- Strengthen international cooperation for human rights, democracy and good governance;
- Work to strengthen gender equality and ensure women's and girls' rights. Strengthen the effort in the fight for closing tax loopholes, address illegal capital transfers and promote fair taxation of natural resources in the world's poorest countries; and,
- Promote social dialogue and trade union rights as a tool for poverty reduction.

Social progress – Denmark will:

- Place allocation and rights in social sectors higher on the agenda in multilateral forums and in the political dialogue with developing countries;
- Support civil society's ability to hold governments accountable for social goals and commitments;
- Ensure transparency, accountability and citizens' involvement in decisions on and monitoring of social services;
- Be at the forefront of international efforts to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and in the fight against HIV/AIDS;
- To an increasing extent support social sectors through budget support and multilateral initiatives; and,
- Strengthen efforts for social protection, especially for poor and vulnerable groups.

DANIDA also focuses on Green growth and stability and protection for developing countries.

Focused target area:

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burma (Myanmar), Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, Zimbabwe.

Operational geographic location/countries:

Main office in Copenhagen. Denmark, but also has embassies or consulates/representations in 111 countries around the world. See <http://um.dk/en/about-us/organisation/find-us-abroad>

Disability work:

DANIDA supports interventions to promote the rights of persons with disabilities (PWD) through a Disability Fund of 46 million Danish Krone a year, administered by the umbrella organization, Disabled Peoples Organizations in Denmark (DPOD). In order to access the fund, collaboration with a Danish disability NGO is required.



### **3.2.2 Department for International Development (DFID)**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development>

#### Vision and Mission:

The Department for International Development (DFID) leads the UK's work to end extreme poverty. DFID is working to end the need for aid by creating jobs, unlocking the potential of girls and women and helping to save lives when humanitarian emergencies hit.

#### Thematic focus:

Education: By 2015 DFID will:

- Help 9 million children in primary school, at least half of which will be girls;
- Help 2 million children in lower secondary school; and,
- Train more than 190,000 teachers and improve the quality of education and children's learning.

Health: By 2015 DFID will:

- Help immunize more than 55 million children against preventable diseases;
- Save the lives of at least 50,000 women in pregnancy and childbirth and 250,000 newborn babies;
- Help at least 10 million more women to use modern methods of family planning; and,
- Help half malaria deaths in 10 of the worst affected countries.

Economic growth and the private sector: By 2015 DFID will:

- Provide more than 50 million people with the means to help work their way out of poverty;
- Help up to half of the countries in Africa benefit from freer trade; and,
- Secure the right to land and property for more than 6 million people.

Governance and conflict: To make countries safer and fairer DFID will:

- Devote 30% of its aid to war-torn and unstable countries by 2014;
- Support freer and fairer elections in 13 countries;
- Help 10 million women to access justice through the courts, police and legal assistance; and,
- Help 40 million people to hold authorities to account.

DFID also focuses on improving climate, environment, water and sanitation.

Focused target group:

Primarily children and (especially) girls and women in developing countries along with the poorest people in developing, poor and unstable countries.

Focused target area:

DFID works directly in 28 countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma (Myanmar), Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Operational geographic location/countries:

Main office in London. UK has 129 embassies and consulates around the world: <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/united-kingdom>

Disability work:

DFID has a Disability Rights Fund which aims to strengthen the participation of Disabled Persons' Organizations in the advancement of the UN CRPD at country level. The fund operates in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, the Pacific Islands and Eastern Europe. Further details: <https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/disability-rights-fund>

### **3.2.3 Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/>

#### Vision and Mission:

JICA aims to contribute to the promotion of international cooperation as well as the sound development of Japanese and global economy by supporting the socioeconomic development, recovery or economic stability of developing regions.

#### Thematic focus:

Mission 1: Addressing the global agenda.

The advance of globalization brings positive effects, sparking economic development and providing people with new opportunities. JICA will make full use of Japan's experience and technologies as it works in concert with international society to address the various globalization-related issues developing countries face in a comprehensive manner.

Mission 2: Reducing poverty through equitable growth.

JICA will provide support for human resources development, capacity building, policy and institutional improvements, and provision of social and economic infrastructure, thereby pursuing sustained poverty reduction through equitable growth.

Mission 3: Improving governance.

JICA will offer support aimed at improving the fundamental systems needed by a state, as well as systems for effectively providing public services based on the needs of people, and at fostering the institutions and human resources needed to manage those systems appropriately.

Mission 4: Achieving human security.

In order to defend the weakest members of society from poverty, civil strife and other humanitarian threats, and to allow them to live in dignity, JICA will support efforts to bolster social and institutional capacity and to increase people's ability to deal with the threats themselves.

#### Focused target area:

JICA pursues a coordinated, comprehensive approach to address the most pressing issues faced by each country and region. See:

<http://www.jica.go.jp/english/countries/index.html>

Operational geographic location/countries:

Headquarters in Tokyo and about a hundred overseas offices to promote projects that meet local needs.

### 3.2.4 The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)

<http://www.norad.no/en/>

#### Vision and Mission:

In the years up to 2015, NORAD will:

- Help to empower recipient countries to achieve their own development goals;
- Concentrate most resources on following up on the main priority areas of Norwegian development policy;
- Help to promote a focus on, and communicate the results of, the entire range of Norwegian development assistance activities;
- Produce and apply knowledge of what works and what does not work in order to improve development assistance;
- Be an instigator of public debate on development assistance and development; and,
- Develop expertise, working methods and leadership that enable NORAD to solve complex tasks effectively.

#### Thematic focus:

- Global health:

The Norwegian government's intention is to promote a policy of health for all. Norway has made a special commitment to increase maternal, child and women's health.

- Education and research:

Education for sustainable development aims to help people develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to make informed decisions for the benefit of themselves and others, now and in the future, and to act upon these decisions.

- Democracy and good governance:

Good governance and the fight against corruption is one of the main areas of priority in Norwegian aid and development policy.

NORAD also focuses on climate change and the environment, energy and macroeconomics and public administration.

#### Focused target area:

The countries are selected based on the size of the aid, and the historical cooperation between countries and / or current events:

Africa: Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan,

Sudan, Tanzania, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Asia and Oceania: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Vietnam.

Latin America: Brazil, Haiti, Nicaragua.

Middle East: Lebanon, Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic.

Operational geographic location/countries:

Main office in Oslo. 255 embassies and consulates.

<http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-of/norway>

Disability work:

During the last decade, the approach to disability has changed from a medical approach to a social and a human rights-based approach where the focus is on removing barriers in society. Norway has been among the driving forces establishing a framework for including and mainstreaming disability in development cooperation. An evaluation from 2012 of details on Norwegian support to promote the rights of persons with disabilities (mainstreaming disability in the new development paradigm) can be found

at: <http://www.norad.no/en/tools-and-publications/publications/evaluations/publication?key=389256>

### 3.2.5 The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

<http://www.sida.se/English/>

#### Vision and Mission:

To reduce poverty in the world. The overall objective of Swedish International Development Cooperation is to ensure that people living in poverty and under oppression have the ability to improve their living conditions.

#### Thematic focus:

- Democracy, human rights and freedom of expression:

The overall target for Sweden's development cooperation is to contribute to improved living conditions for people living under oppression and in poverty. Democracy and human rights including freedom of speech are therefore areas where Sweden is investing most.

- Gender equality:

Gender equality is achieved when women and men, girls and boys, have equal rights, conditions, opportunities and power to shape their own lives and affect society. In Sweden, gender equality within development cooperation is a part of Sweden's Policy for Global Development and has been a thematic priority since 2007.

- Health:

One of the main issues that SIDA focuses on within the health sector is sexual and reproductive health and rights. This includes ensuring that people have access to knowledge and advice on sexuality and sexual rights, as well as access to sexual and reproductive health and medical care. The health of women and children, with a special focus on sexual and reproductive rights, is a priority area within SIDA's health cooperation. SIDA particularly focuses on better and safer prenatal care in partner countries, and also provides support to national health systems that make medical care available to those living in poverty.

- Education:

Roughly two thirds of SIDA's development aid for education is channeled through bilateral aid to education sectors in partner countries. Afghanistan is the single largest recipient where SIDA, among others, supports the so-called Community Based Education programs. The aim is to bring the school to children, as an effective way to reach especially those girls who cannot get to school otherwise. Other countries where SIDA supports education include Cambodia, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Bolivia and Kosovo.

- Humanitarian aid:

SIDA's humanitarian aid is devoted to saving lives, alleviating suffering and maintaining human dignity in disaster situations. This often applies to extensive work that involves both protection of civilians and material aid such as food, shelter, water, sanitation and health care.

Focused target group:

Gender and children, otherwise not specified.

Focused target area:

SIDA carries out enhanced development cooperation with a total of 33 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. The selection of cooperation countries is based on political decisions made by the Swedish government.

Operational geographic location/countries:

SIDA's head office is in Stockholm, but staff are also stationed in the partner countries.

Disability work:

For a complete treatment of this topic, see: <http://www.sida.se/English/how-we-work/Reporting-and-results/a-sample-of-results/>



### 3.2.6 USAid

<http://www.usaid.gov/>

#### Vision and Mission:

USAid's mission statement highlights two complementary and closely linked goals: ending extreme poverty and promoting the development of resilient, democratic societies that are able to realize their potential. USAid fundamentally believes that ending extreme poverty requires enabling inclusive, sustainable growth; promoting free, peaceful and self-reliant societies with effective, legitimate governments; building human capital and creating social safety nets that reach the poorest and most vulnerable.

#### Thematic focus:

Democracy, human rights and governance:

- Supporting more legitimate, inclusive and effective governments, so that they are responsive to the needs of their people;
- Helping countries transition to democracy and strengthening democratic institutions, capitalizing on critical moments to expand freedom and opportunity; and,
- Promoting inclusive development, so that women, minorities and vulnerable populations benefit from growth, opportunity and the expansion of rights.

Education:

- Improving reading skills in primary schools, by strengthening teaching techniques, materials, curricula and tests, so students can quickly master this essential skill;
- Strengthening higher education and workforce development programs, so young people—especially disadvantaged communities and women—can find good jobs and contribute to the economic growth of their countries;
- Expanding access to education in regions witnessing crisis and conflict, so that USAid can help curb inequality that fuels tension; and,
- Fostering innovation in education through “All Children Reading, the Grand Challenge for Development” designed to develop new learning materials and methods, improve the collection and analysis of education data and use mobile phones and tablets to improve literacy.

Gender equality: Today, USAid is accelerating efforts to advance equality and promote women's advancement by:

- Ensuring all strategies and programs contribute to reducing gender gaps that impede development and slow progress;

- Developing frameworks and metrics that measure the gender impact of its program so USAid can measure women's participation, priorities, and needs; and,
- Ensuring the composition of USAid work staff reflects principles so as to reflect commitment to equality and female leadership.

Global health: USAid is making strategic investments that contribute to:

- Reducing maternal mortality by 30 percent;
- Reducing under-five child mortality by 35 percent;
- Preventing 54 million unintended pregnancies; and,
- Halving the burden of malaria for 450 million people, representing 70 percent of the at-risk population in Africa.

Focused target group:

Gender and children, otherwise not specified.

Focused target area:

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, D. R., Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, WB Gaza, Zimbabwe.

Operational geographic location/countries:

Main office in Washington. USAid has missions in a wide range of countries: <http://www.usaid.gov/mission-directory>

Disability work: Not specifically mentioned, but some details can be found in minutes from a disability inclusive Round Table, held on October 7, 2014, in Addis Ababa. See:

<http://www.usaid.gov/ethiopia/speeches/disability-inclusive-development-round-table>

### **3.3 Multilateral Agencies**

#### **Introduction**

The designation “multilateral” for the following agencies indicates that they receive funds from donor countries throughout the world, and then make loans or grants to member countries within their regions. That is, financial support comes from many sources, but then passes through the hands of one of these agencies which distributes the funds according to the policies and priorities it decides upon in consultation with the donors and recipient countries. Although these loans and grants are often very large and are negotiated and made at the national government level, the funds can be, and often are, used at the community or “grassroots” level, and therefore these agencies should not be overlooked. It may prove useful to coordinate visits to these agencies with advocacy activities with your national government.

#### **Suggested Multilateral Agencies**

##### **3.3.1 African Development Bank Group (ADBAG)**

[www.afdb.org](http://www.afdb.org)

The African Development Bank Group is a multilateral development finance institution established to contribute to the economic development and social progress of African countries.

#### Vision:

Building today, a better Africa tomorrow.

#### Mission:

To mobilize and allocate resources for investment in its Regional Member Countries (RMCs), and provide policy advice and technical assistance to support development efforts.

#### Thematic focus:

The environment, climate change, health, education, livelihood, conflict and emergency preparedness and response.

#### Focused target group:

Indigenous people, displaced people, children, women, persons with disabilities, people affected by conflict and emergency.

Focused target area:  
The continent of Africa.

Operational geographic location/countries:  
The ADBG has offices or representation in almost all the countries of Africa.

Disability work:  
The Bank has supported disability programs in many countries and has a policy of inclusive development and guidelines to include persons with disabilities in development actions and processes.

### **3.3.2 Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

[www.adb.org](http://www.adb.org)

The ADB is a multilateral finance institution that engages mainly in public sector lending for development purposes. Its clients are its member governments, who are also its shareholders. Since its founding in 1966, the ADB has been driven by an inspiration and dedication to improving people's lives in Asia and the Pacific. By targeting its investments in partnership with its developing member countries and other stakeholders, it can alleviate poverty and help create a world in which everyone can share in the benefits of sustained and inclusive growth.

#### Vision:

The ADB aims for an Asia and Pacific free from poverty.

#### Mission:

Strategy 2020 promotes three complementary agendas on inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration

#### Thematic focus:

Water, land, climate change, poverty, health, education, sanitation, human rights and many other key developmental issues.

#### Focused target group:

The ADB focuses on issues concerning women, children, indigenous people, people in conflict and emergency situations, people with disabilities and displaced people.

#### Focused target area:

Countries of Asia and Pacific.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

The ADB has offices or representation in almost all the countries of Asia and Pacific.

#### Disability work:

The Bank has supported disability programs in many countries and has a stated focus on including persons with disabilities in all the development activities and processes.

### 3.3.3 European Union / European Commission (EU/EC)

[www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)

The European Commission is the EU's executive body. It represents the interests of the European Union as a whole, and not the interests of individual countries. The term *Commission* refers to both the [College of Commissioners](#) and to the institution itself.

#### Vision:

The institution proposes new legislation to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. It ensures that EU law is correctly applied by member countries.

#### Mission:

To propose legislation which is then adopted by the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, enforce European law (where necessary with the help of the Court of Justice of the EU), set objectives and priorities for action, outlined yearly in the Commission Work Program and work towards delivering them. Manage and implement EU policies and the budget, and represent the Union outside Europe (negotiating trade agreements between the EU and other countries).

#### Thematic focus:

Land, water, sanitation, livelihood, health, education, conflict and emergency, human rights, democracy and other developmental issues.

#### Focused target group:

Children, women, indigenous people, people affected by conflict and emergency, the poor, persons with disabilities.

#### Focused target area:

Almost all the developing countries.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

Developing countries of the world.

#### Disability work:

The EU/EC has supported disability programs in many countries and has an inclusive development policy and guidelines to include persons with disabilities in all the development initiatives it facilitates.

### **3.3.4 Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)**

[www.iadb.org](http://www.iadb.org)

The IADB supports efforts by Latin America and the Caribbean countries to reduce poverty and inequality. It aims to bring about development in a sustainable, climate-friendly way. It is the leading source of development financing for Latin America and the Caribbean, with a strong commitment to achieve measurable results, increased integrity, transparency and accountability. It has an evolving reform agenda that seeks to increase their development impact in the region.

#### Vision and Mission:

In partnership with clients, the IADB seeks to eliminate poverty and inequality, and to promote sustainable economic growth.

#### Thematic focus:

The environment, climate change, water quality, land usage, sanitation, human rights, conflict and emergency, livelihood, health, education and many other developmental issues.

#### Focused target group:

Children, women, people affected by conflict, persons with disabilities, indigenous people, displaced people and other poor and excluded communities.

#### Focused target area:

Countries of North and Latin America and the Caribbean.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

The Bank has offices or representation in almost all of the countries located in its region.

#### Disability work:

The Bank has supported disability programs in many countries throughout its region, and has guidelines providing for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in development initiatives.

### 3.3.5 World Bank Group (WBG)

[www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)

The World Bank Group integrates the principles of sustainable development into its work with clients across all sectors and regions. Those principles are also at the heart of the World Bank Group's [mission statement](#) released in 2013 and are aligned with its overarching goals to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity.

Vision:

End extreme poverty within a generation and boost shared prosperity.

Mission:

To work for a world free of poverty.

Thematic focus:

Land, agriculture, water, sanitation, climate change, environment, health, education and livelihood.

Focused target group:

The poor, women, children, displaced people, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and other excluded groups.

Focused target area:

Almost all the countries of the world.

Operational geographic location/countries:

The WBG operates throughout the world.

Disability work:

The WBG has specific guidelines which include persons with disabilities in all development actions and processes. It has supported many development programs for persons with disabilities in many countries of the world.



## **3.4 United Nations (UN) Agencies**

### **Introduction**

Approaching these listed UN agencies can help a great deal in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities in poorer countries and communities. With the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the UN organization has given itself a legally binding framework which should provide new entry points for the disability movement to all UN agencies. The UN system has the advantage of a strong network of UN representatives and offices all across the globe, a network that carries out its work at both country and community level. There is also a growing body of UN documents calling for the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in development programs and strategies, all of which can be used to make your case when approaching these agencies.

### **Suggested UN Agencies**

#### **3.4.1 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

<http://www.unicef.org/>

##### Vision and Mission:

A world where the rights of every child are realized. UNICEF has the global authority to influence decision-makers and the variety of partners at the grassroots level to turn the most innovative ideas into reality. UNICEF believes that nurturing and caring for children are the cornerstones of human progress. UNICEF was created with this purpose in mind – to work with others to overcome the obstacles that poverty, violence, disease and discrimination place in a child's path.

##### Thematic focus:

Child rights, education, children's access to health care, combating HIV/AIDS, combating all forms of child abuse and the fight against discrimination.

##### Focused target group:

The world's children.

Geographic area:

UNICEF has global coverage with project activities, and has offices in 190 countries and territories, with greatest concentration in lower-income countries.

Disability work:

UNICEF has supported programs and projects assisting disabled children in several countries.

### **3.4.2 United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**

<http://www.undp.org/>

#### Vision and Mission:

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. UNDP offers a global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

#### Thematic focus:

UNDP development cooperation focuses on poverty reduction, democratic governance, human rights, crisis prevention and recovery and the environment.

#### Geographical focus:

Global coverage, present in 170 countries and territories, where country offices implement the work.

#### Disability work:

Persons with disabilities are part of the UNDP focus on human rights, poverty reduction and the empowerment of minorities and vulnerable groups.

### **3.4.3 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

<http://en.unesco.org/>

#### Vision and Mission:

Alongside political and economic agreements, UNESCO seeks to establish world peace on the basis of humanity's moral and intellectual solidarity.

#### Thematic focus:

UNESCO strives to build networks among nations that enable the building of moral and intellectual solidarity, by:

- Mobilizing for education so that every child, boy or girl, has access to quality education as a fundamental human right and as a prerequisite for human development.
- Building intercultural understanding through protection of heritage and support for cultural diversity.
- Pursuing scientific cooperation such as early warning systems for tsunamis or trans-boundary water management agreements, to strengthen ties between nations and societies.
- Protecting freedom of expression; an essential condition for democracy, development and human dignity.

#### Geographical focus:

UNESCO has a global coverage and operates through country offices.

#### Disability work:

UNESCO undertakes work in the disabilities sector, especially through its work on education.

### **3.4.4 United Nations Foundation (UNF)**

<http://www.unfoundation.org/>

#### Vision and Mission:

The United Nations Foundation works to foster a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

#### Thematic focus:

Climate change, women's rights, peace and security, global health, poverty eradication, energy access and United States/UN relations.

#### Geographical focus:

Like all UN bodies, the Foundation works world-wide.

## **3.5 Disability and Development Agencies**

### **Introduction**

The following organizations implement and fund development programs and projects in countries of low income. While disability related work is their focus, they may not all be familiar with the specific issues concerning vision loss. Their disability work does provide some common ground as a starting point, but before approaching them, it would be useful to try and find out if they have done any work with blindness organizations in your country or region.

### **Suggested Disability and Development Agencies**

#### **3.5.1 Abilis**

<http://www.abilis.us/>

#### Vision:

Abilis will set the standard of excellence for person-centered services through innovation, teamwork and respect for the people it serves.

#### Mission:

To shape communities in which people of all abilities participate and contribute as equal citizens.

#### Focused target group:

Abilis focuses on individuals and families of persons with developmental disabilities.

### **3.5.2 Christian Blind Mission (CBM)**

[www.cbm.org](http://www.cbm.org)

#### Vision:

CBM is an international Christian development organization, committed to improving the quality of life of people with disabilities in the poorest communities of the world.

#### Mission:

CBM strives to build the capacity of partner organizations. This is done following proven core values and with more than 100 years of experience in the field of disability.

#### Thematic focus:

CBM focuses on the rights of persons with disabilities in poorer communities. It covers a wide range of areas, including access to health care, education, livelihood and rehabilitation. It supports the strengthening of the disability movement through capacity-building, alliances and advocacy.

#### Geographical coverage:

CBM has projects in about 70 low and middle income countries and has 11 Member Associations.

### **3.5.3 Disability Rights Fund (DRF)**

<http://www.disabilityrightsfund.org/about.html>

#### Vision:

A world where persons with disabilities participate fully in society and enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

#### Mission:

DRF supports Disabled Persons Organizations (DPO) in the developing world to take the lead in advocating for the human rights of persons with disabilities at local and national levels, utilizing the mechanism of the UN CRPD.

#### Thematic focus:

DRF encourages and promotes, for itself and its partners, respect for the general principles stated in Article 3 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Namely:

- Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of all persons;
- Non-discrimination;
- Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- Equality of opportunity;
- Accessibility;
- Equality between men and women; and,
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

DRF also encourages and promotes respect for these additional principles:

- **Learning and Change:**  
Embracing an open approach to the work they are doing to advance the rights of persons with disabilities.
- **Partnerships:**  
Encouraging the pursuit of a variety of partnerships as part of a strategy to increase capacity and advance rights.
- **Accountability:**  
Committing to take responsibility for one's actions, especially when in a position of power.



- A Culture of Rights:  
Promoting rights-based policies and programs.
- Sustainability:  
Recognizing the need for community-led processes that can be sustained long-term in an environmentally friendly manner.
- Celebration:  
Remembering the importance of sharing positive experiences, reflecting on achievements and celebrating the diversity around us.

Operational geographic location/countries:

Funds organizations all over the world.

### 3.5.4 Handicap International (HI)

<http://www.handicap-international.org.uk/>

#### Vision and Mission:

Handicap International (HI) is an independent charity working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. HI works alongside disabled and vulnerable people to help meet their basic needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights.

#### Thematic focus:

- **Emergencies:**  
In emergency situations HI assists people who are disabled, refugees and displaced people by providing treatment and other services. It also raises the awareness of other organizations about the needs of people with disabilities in an emergency, and works with them to improve their services.
- **Rehabilitation:**  
HI's projects aim to provide high quality, sustainable rehabilitation services through setting up orthopedic and rehabilitation centers and training local professionals. It also sets up community-based rehabilitation projects and advises families on ways to support the rehabilitation of family members who are disabled.
- **Health:**  
By working on the prevention of disabling diseases, the creation of community health services, and the provision of psychological support for victims, HI's projects aim to ensure every man, woman and child receives the same level of healthcare.
- **Inclusion:**  
HI works to promote inclusion in education, sport and cultural activities, access to employment, and lobbying governments to ensure equal opportunities for people with disabilities.
- **Disability rights and information:**  
HI's teams work alongside people with disabilities, and disabled people's organizations to address societies' negative attitudes and discrimination which put people with disabilities in situations of extreme poverty, the poorest of the poor worldwide. HI is also involved at the international level with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Focused target group:

Persons who are disabled. Handicap International works alongside people with disabilities, vulnerable groups and a range of organizations in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster.

Focused target area:

Interventions in around 60 countries worldwide. Detailed information can be found at: [http://www.handicap-international.org.uk/where\\_we\\_work/](http://www.handicap-international.org.uk/where_we_work/)

Operational geographic location/countries:

Handicap International is a federation made up of eight national associations. See: [Belgium](#), [Canada](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Switzerland](#), [UK](#) and [USA](#). For further details etc. see: [http://www.handicap-international.org.uk/about\\_us](http://www.handicap-international.org.uk/about_us)

### **3.5.5 International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC)**

<http://www.iddcconsortium.net/>

#### Mission:

IDDC is committed to its values and principles which uphold inclusive ways of working, both internally and in all its development activities, and which seek the participation of all members and both encourage and respect diversity.

#### Thematic focus:

- **Human rights for all:**  
They believe in the full range of human rights and recognize that the rights of people who are disabled are frequently violated. They are committed to working for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and working to ensure their activities are implemented within a human rights framework;
- **Inclusion and diversity:**  
They believe in the social model of disability and that inclusion is both a process and a goal;
- **Sustainable development and social justice:**  
IDDC believes that development must strive to promote equity, justice and respect for diverse cultures and peoples, and that poverty alleviation and inclusion are necessary to promote sustainable development; and,
- **Partnership and collaboration:**  
They believe in working in partnership with people who are disabled, disabled people's organizations, networks and with families and communities. They believe in supporting the full participation of disabled people in their own organization and wider society.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

IDDC works throughout the world in countries which it identifies as being in need of its work and services.

### **3.5.6 Lions Club International (LCI)**

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/index.php>

#### Vision:

To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

#### Mission:

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

#### Thematic focus:

- Saving sight;
- Serving youth;
- Providing disaster relief; and,
- Meeting humanitarian needs

#### Focused target group:

LCI has no specific target groups apart from its concentration on services to youth and to persons living with vision loss.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

Lions Clubs exist all over the world, and form the foundation of LCI's work. LCI tries to have a presence everywhere it sees opportunities to serve.

#### Disability work:

LCI has been active in many countries since its founding in 1968, and has supported disability related programs and projects in many countries.

### **3.5.7 Rehabilitation International (RI)**

<http://www.riglobal.org/about/>

Mission:

To advance the rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities worldwide.

Thematic focus:

Disabilities, accessibility, inclusiveness, the independence, dignity and rights of all persons with disabilities.

Operational geographic location/countries:

African Region: Angola; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Democratic Republic of Congo; Ethiopia; Gambia; Ghana; Kenya; Nigeria; Republic of Seychelles; Republic of South Africa; Sierra Leone; Sudan; Tanzania; Uganda; Zimbabwe.

Asia Pacific Region: Afghanistan; Australia; Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; Chinese Taipei (prev. Taiwan); Fiji Islands; Hong Kong; India; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; Mongolia; Nepal; New Zealand; Pakistan; China; Republic of Korea; Sri Lanka; Thailand; Timor Leste; Vietnam.

Arab Region: Bahrain; Iraq; Jordan; Kuwait; Lebanon; Palestine; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Sultanate of Oman; Syria; Tunisia; United Arab Emirates; Republic of Yemen.

European Region: Austria; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Luxembourg; Norway; Poland; Russia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Ukraine; United Kingdom; Uzbekistan.

Latin America: Brazil; Colombia; Mexico.

North America: United States of America; Canada.

### **3.5.8 Rotary International (RI)**

<https://www.rotary.org/>

#### Mission:

The mission of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life; and,
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

Rotary Clubs exist in many countries at all levels of development throughout the world. The clubs form the foundation of the work of RI.

#### Disability work:

RI has assisted in the implementation of programs and projects in the disabilities sector, so long as they fit within their stated framework and mission.

### **3.5.9 Sightsavers International (SI)**

<http://www.sightsavers.net/>

#### Vision and Mission:

Sightsavers works to combat blindness in developing countries, restoring sight through specialist treatment and eye care. Sightsavers also supports people who are irreversibly blind by providing education, counselling and training. They help the people who need it most - those living in poverty in some of the world's poorest countries.

#### Thematic focus:

Sightsavers' work can be divided into the areas of health, social inclusion, education and community development. For further details, see:

[http://www.sightsavers.net/our\\_work/how\\_we\\_help/default.html](http://www.sightsavers.net/our_work/how_we_help/default.html)

It is important to note that Sightsavers does not carry out work directly, but works with local partners. Sightsavers also recognizes the value in working together with other like-minded organizations on a national and global scale, to make more of a difference. The organization is striving to eliminate avoidable blindness, and for equal opportunities for people who are blind, but recognizes that to bring about real and lasting change for as many people as possible, it is necessary to be influencing governments in the countries where the organization works. Their projects strive to demonstrate best practice, and the aim is that governments see how successful they are and follow the example. This means that the projects are designed to be scaled up and rolled out nationally, thus the maximum number of people can receive vital eye services.

#### Focused target group:

Persons with visual impairments in developing countries.

#### Focused target area:

Sightsavers works with partners in 37 countries: Antigua, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Guyana, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.



Operational geographic location/countries

Sightsavers' headquarters is in Haywards Heath, UK, and it has branch offices in Ireland, Italy, the United States, Senegal, Kenya, India, the United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Sweden and the Caribbean. For further details on these locations, see:

[http://www.sightsavers.net/about\\_us/contact\\_us/9596.html](http://www.sightsavers.net/about_us/contact_us/9596.html)

## 3.6 Corporate Foundations and Funders

### Introduction

The organizations listed below have been identified as potential funders, and therefore as organizations which you might wish to approach for initial engagement. Whatever information could be found on their philanthropic strategies is listed along with contact information, but it should be noted that these organizations tend not to present themselves in the same ways as the agencies listed thus far. It is best to look at the organization's website to get the most current information, but this list serves as a guideline for your initial consideration. These foundations do not, for the most part, maintain local offices and therefore your initial introductions will not be in person. They are, however, potential sources of funding and should be made aware of sight loss issues prior to the submission of any funding proposal. Their proposal submission guidelines vary widely, and so careful research is necessary.

### Suggested Corporate Foundations and Funders

#### 3.6.1 Accenture

<http://www.accenture.com/us-en/company/Pages/index.aspx>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

Accenture strategy operates at the intersection of business and technology. Because technology is transforming every organization, you need technology-enabled strategy to take advantage of the opportunities. Whether it is business strategy, technology strategy or operations strategy, they drive value, shape new businesses and design operating models for the future.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

Accenture is a multi-national management company having offices in the Americas, the Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

#### Contact information:

Those interested in obtaining funding from them are best to contact their local offices; see: <http://www.accenture.com/us-en/contact/Pages/office-directory.aspx>

### 3.6.2 Aga Khan Foundation (AKF)

<http://www.akdn.org/akf>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

AKF seeks sustainable solutions to long-term problems of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and ill-health with special emphasis on the needs of rural communities in mountainous, coastal and other resource-poor areas. AKF is largely an implementing organization rather than a grant-making foundation. When it does make grants, AKF normally makes them to NGOs that share AKF's goals. In some cases, where there is no appropriate partner, the Foundation may help to create a new civil society organization or may manage projects directly. Grantees are selected without regard to origin, religion, gender or political association.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

Head Office - Geneva, Switzerland (established in 1967), Pakistan (1969), United Kingdom (1973), Kenya (1974), India (1978), Bangladesh (1980), Canada (1980), United States of America (1981), Portugal (1983), Tanzania (1991), Uganda (1992), Tajikistan (1995), Mozambique (2000), Kyrgyz Republic (2003), Afghanistan (2003), Syria (2003), Egypt (2006), Madagascar (2006), Mali (2007), Russia (2007).

#### Contact information/Social media:

A list of offices and their contact information can be found at:

<http://www.akdn.org/contact.asp> Twitter: @akdn

### 3.6.3 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

This Foundation is a huge international funder and may ignore requests from small groups or for projects that only benefit a singular country. They look to create change on a multi-country level and seek out partners among governments and large INGOs which already have the expertise to bring about such things as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). There is a lot of information on their website about their strategy, what they fund, and new funding opportunities. These can change from year to year. They also have a strong social media presence so many follow them through Facebook or Twitter to see what is trending.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

This Foundation has several large international projects, spelled out annually in their Gates Letter: [http://www.gatesnotes.com/2015-annual-letter?page=0&lang=en&WT.mc\\_id=01\\_21\\_2015\\_AL2015-GF\\_GFO\\_domain\\_Top\\_21](http://www.gatesnotes.com/2015-annual-letter?page=0&lang=en&WT.mc_id=01_21_2015_AL2015-GF_GFO_domain_Top_21)

#### Contact information/Social media:

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/How-We-Work/General-Information/Grantseeker-FAQ>

At the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Visitor Center, you will find stories of work that is improving lives, from Seattle to South Africa. [Plan Your Visit](#)

Address: 440 5th Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109

Tel: (206) 709-3100 ext.7100

Hours: Tues – Sat 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: Free

Twitter @GatesFoundation. They also have a YouTube channel and use Facebook and other social media channels.

### **3.6.4 Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF)**

<http://ciff.org/>

Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

Philosophy: Every child deserves to strive and thrive.

Priorities: Nutrition, child survival, education attainment, climate.

CIFF aims to improve the lives of children in developing countries by achieving large-scale, sustainable impact.

Operational geographic location/countries:

Work with governments in African and Asian countries.

Contact information/Social media:

7 Clifford Street

London, W1S 2FT England

Tel: +44 (0) 20 3740 6100

Email: [info@ciff.org](mailto:info@ciff.org)

### **3.6.5 Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**

<http://www.hiltonfoundation.org/>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

Philosophy: To alleviate human suffering, the Foundation's grant-making programs and The Humanitarian Prize work to improve the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people throughout the world. It provides funds to nonprofit organizations working towards the same goals. The website is very helpful in listing their priority areas, information on how to apply for grants, etc.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

They support projects around the world.

#### Disability work:

Hilton has an affinity to support initiatives in blindness, and has supported schools for the blind and projects in sight-restoration.

#### Contact information/Social media:

To contact them, fill out the form on the website, or write to them at:  
30440 Agoura Road, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 USA  
Tel: +1818.851.3700

### **3.6.6 Fédération Internationale des Associations Catholiques d'Aveugles (FIDACA)**

<http://www.fidaca.org/>

This website is available in German, Spanish and French only.

Contact information:

[secretariat@fidaca.org](mailto:secretariat@fidaca.org)

### **3.6.7 Ford Foundation**

<http://www.fordfoundation.org/>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

The Ford Foundation supports visionary leaders and organizations on the frontlines of social change worldwide. Their goals are to:

- Strengthen democratic values;
- Reduce poverty and injustice;
- Promote international cooperation; and,
- Advance human achievement.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

The Ford Foundation has local offices in several countries around the world.

#### Contact information/Social media:

On the website is the process to apply for a grant.

Contact: 320 East 43rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10017 USA

Tel: +1 212 573 5000

Fax: +1 212 351 3677

Twitter: @FordFoundation



### **3.6.8 Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation**

<http://www.moore.org/about>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

They believe in bold ideas that create enduring impact in the areas of environmental conservation, patient care and science. The Foundation was established to create change in these fields around the world.

#### Contact information/Social media:

Moore Foundation Headquarters

1661 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94304 USA

They also use social media to connect with those interested in their work.

### **3.6.9 The IBM Foundation**

[https://www.ibm.com/ibm/responsibility/initiatives/grant\\_programs.shtml](https://www.ibm.com/ibm/responsibility/initiatives/grant_programs.shtml)

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

The IBM Foundation discourages unsolicited proposals. Groups must be registered charities and American organizations seem to be favored. Their priority areas are Smarter Cities Program and World Community Grid. They post their supported projects in their Responsibility Report:

<https://www.ibm.com/ibm/responsibility/reports/>

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

They support projects in the countries where they have local offices.

#### Contact information/Social media:

Consult the website for a list of offices and their contact information worldwide.

### **3.6.10 John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**

<http://www.macfound.org/>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation supports creative people and effective institutions committed to building a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. In addition to selecting the MacArthur Fellows, the Foundation works to defend human rights, advance global conservation and security, make cities better places and understand how technology is affecting children and society. This webpage describes the process of applying for a grant: <http://www.macfound.org/info-grantseekers/>

#### Contact information/Social media:

Contact: <http://www.macfound.org/about/contact/> They have a main office in the USA and others in the countries where they work. They can be found on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

### **3.6.11 Nippon Foundation (NF)**

<http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/en/what/grant/>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

Their mission is social innovation. Through this innovation they aim to achieve a society where all people support one another, reducing the burdens and challenges faced together. Everyone has a role to play: citizens, corporations, nonprofit organizations, governments and international bodies. Nippon has helped provide funds to rebuild in areas affected by natural disasters.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

Based in Tokyo, Japan, they support projects around the world.

#### Disability work:

Specific projects are not listed on their website; however, they supported the Society for the Blind in Haiti in the rebuilding of their service center after the earthquake.

#### Contact information/Social media:

Webpage for the application process: <http://www.nippon-foundation.or.jp/en/what/grant/application/>

Email: [cc@ps.nippon-foundation.or.jp](mailto:cc@ps.nippon-foundation.or.jp)

Nippon has social media accounts with Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

### **3.6.12 Noor Dubai Foundation (NDF)**

<http://www.noordubai.ae/en/Default.aspx>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

The NDF efforts focus on the eradication of preventable blindness with a special emphasis on fighting diseases in developing countries. The NDF more closely resembles an NGO than a funding source, but they do function as a partner in projects related to sight restoration and blindness prevention.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

The NDF works mainly in Muslim countries and countries with a high percentage of Muslims in their populations.

#### Disability work:

Their focus is blindness prevention and sight restoration among poor and vulnerable populations.

#### Contact information/Social media:

Dubai Health Authority HQ, Oud Meitha 1, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Tel: +971 800-633

Fax: +971 043113166

Email: [contact@noordubai.ae](mailto:contact@noordubai.ae)

### **3.6.13 Oak Foundation**

<http://www.oakfnd.org/>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

Oak Foundation commits its resources to addressing issues of global social and environmental concern, particularly those that have a major impact on the lives of the disadvantaged.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

The Oak Foundation has made over 3,000 grants to not-for-profit organizations across the globe. Oak has its main administrative office in Geneva, Switzerland, and a presence in eight other countries: Belize, Bulgaria, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, the UK, the US and Zimbabwe.

#### Contact information:

For complete information, see the website.

### **3.6.14 Open Society Foundation (OSF)**

<http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

OSF helps protect and improve the lives of people in marginalized communities. Through project grants, scholarships, fellowships and advocacy, they support efforts to create a more just world. Their network of programs and regional foundations addresses the following key issues:

- Education & Youth;
- Governance and Accountability;
- Health; and,
- Rights and Justice.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

They have offices in the USA and in the regions where they support a particularly large amount of work. They have programs all over the globe.

#### Contact information/Social media:

OSF eligibility requirements are listed on their website:

<http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/grants> You can also follow them through their social media channels.

### **3.6.15 Rockefeller Foundation**

<http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

The Rockefeller Foundation's mission is to promote the well-being of humanity throughout the world. They pursue this mission through dual goals: advancing inclusive economies that expand opportunities for more broadly shared prosperity, and building resilience through helping people, communities and institutions prepare for, withstand, and emerge stronger from acute shocks and chronic stresses. To achieve these goals, the Rockefeller Foundation works at the intersection of four focus areas:

- Advance health;
- Revalue ecosystems;
- Secure livelihoods; and,
- Transform cities.

Their overarching aim is to address the root causes of emerging challenges and create systemic change.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

The headquarters are in the USA and they have 3 other offices in Thailand, Kenya and Italy.

#### Contact information/Social media:

They use social media to tell more about their work. They also have a webpage dedicated to those seeking funding:

<http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/grants>



### **3.6.16 Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)**

<http://www.vsointernational.org/>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

VSO is a UK registered charity that works in the most disadvantaged countries in which it is safe to do so. Aiming to make a significant contribution in each country, their staff works with local partner organizations to develop a country plan that guides their work. This plan focuses on several of VSO's development goals. In addition to their work in developing countries, VSO also works to build global understanding of the issues around poverty and disadvantage. Advocacy and development awareness activities by staff, returned volunteers and supporters are part of their ongoing work. As its name suggests, VSO supplies volunteers with specific expertise to implement projects and programs in cooperation with local partner organizations. They are not a grant-making agency.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

They have volunteers working in over a dozen countries throughout the world.

#### Contact information/Social media:

Registered head office:

100 London Road, Kingston upon Thames KT2 6QJ

Tel: +44 (0) 20 8780 7500

Email: [enquiry@vso.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@vso.org.uk)

### **3.6.17 William & Flora Hewlett Foundation**

<http://www.hewlett.org/>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

The Foundation's programs have ambitious goals that include: helping to reduce global poverty, limiting the risk of climate change, improving education for students in California and elsewhere, improving reproductive health and rights worldwide.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

They support vibrant performing arts in their community, advancing the field of philanthropy and supporting disadvantaged communities in the San Francisco Bay Area.

#### Contact information/Social media:

Those seeking grants should visit the webpage outlining eligibility criteria:

<http://www.hewlett.org/grants/grantseekers>

#### Contact:

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation  
2121 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA, 94025 USA

Tel: +1 (650) 234-4500

Fax: +1 (650) 234-4501

Online form option: <http://www.hewlett.org/about-us/contact>

### **3.6.18 World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP)**

<http://thewcmp.org/>

#### Vision and Mission/Thematic focus:

The World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists (WCMP) is a global network of affluent individuals, grant-making foundations and socially responsible corporations, established to advance effective and accountable giving. WCMP is a unique catalyst for partnership across public, private and social sectors, offering information and resources to link donors with social investment opportunities. As a trusted broker of collaborative relationships, WCMP mobilizes financial and human resources to confront social needs and advance strategic philanthropy.

#### Operational geographic location/countries:

They are based in the USA but operate in the Middle East through Muslim businesses.

#### Contact information/Social media:

Those seeking grants or funds may find it necessary to join the network in order to obtain further information

#### Contact:

P.O Box 3654, Oak Brook, IL 60522, USA

Tel: +1 (630) 889 9512

Fax: +1 (630) 889 9511

Email: [info@thewcmp.org](mailto:info@thewcmp.org)

## **Annexure**

### **Annex 1**

#### **Organization Website Letter: Positive**

[date]

[Type the sender company name]  
[Type the sender company address]

[Type the recipient name]  
[Type the recipient address]

#### **To whom it may concern:**

I am writing on behalf of [Type the sender company name] to commend your organization for making accessible websites a priority. People with vision loss often rely on special software to enable them to use the Internet and all that it has to offer. All too often, however, the way a website is designed prevents individuals using such software from accessing the information provided. The designers of your websites have taken this into consideration, and as a result, people who are blind or partially sighted can make use of those websites alongside their sighted counterparts.

We so often have to write governments and organizations to explain the importance of web accessibility. It can be a challenge to convince some individuals that they should move towards websites that can be used by all. It is a welcome pleasure when we come across websites like yours that have made accessibility a priority. We commend your organization for taking the necessary steps to ensure people with vision loss are able to navigate and access the information they need from your websites.

Sincerely,

[Type the sender name]  
[Type the sender title]  
[Type the sender company name]

## Annex 2

### Organization Website Letter: Negative

[date]

[Type the sender company name]

[Type the sender company address]

[Type the recipient name]

[Type the recipient address]

#### **To whom it may concern:**

We, [Type the sender company name], are in the process of seeking funding partnerships to support our work on behalf of people living with vision loss, and in doing our preparatory research, we have discovered your website is not accessible to individuals who are blind or partially sighted. This is because it is not compatible with existing assistive technology – that is, the software used for screen reading or magnification. At this point, therefore, we are unable to decide whether or not we might apply to form a partnership with you.

I am writing in the hope of making it clear how important it is to make websites accessible, and to offer some suggestions and resources your organization could consider using to make your websites accessible. Below you will find a more complete explanation of the problem, along with the steps you can take to ensure your websites can be used by all citizens.

Many people with disabilities use assistive technology to enable them to use computers and access the Internet. Some people with vision loss who cannot see computer monitors may use screen readers – devices that speak the text that would normally appear on a monitor. People who have difficulty using a computer mouse can use voice recognition software to control their computers with verbal commands. People with other types of disabilities may use still other kinds of assistive technology. New and innovative assistive technologies are being introduced every day.

Unfortunately, poorly designed websites can create barriers to people with disabilities, just as poorly designed buildings prevent some wheelchair users from entering. Designers may not realize how simple features built into a web page will assist someone who, for instance, cannot see a computer monitor or use a mouse.

To make web pages accessible, the web developer needs to know about web page features that can make a web page user friendly for people with a disability. Information about such features is easily available and many software developers are adding tools to web development software to make it easier to design accessible web pages.

A comprehensive resource for web developers is the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines developed by the Web Accessibility Initiative. These guidelines help designers make web pages as accessible as possible to the widest range of users, including those with disabilities. The Web Accessibility Initiative is a subgroup of the World Wide Web Consortium, the same organization that standardizes the programming language followed by all web developers. Full information, including guidelines and checklists, can be found at [www.w3c.org/WAI/Resources](http://www.w3c.org/WAI/Resources).

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines will provide your web designers with all the information they need to make your websites accessible, and we strongly urge you to pass this resource on to them. In the meantime, however, here are a few concrete steps your organization can take immediately:

- Establish a policy that your web pages will be accessible and create a process for implementation;
- Ensure that from now on all new and modified web pages and content are accessible by:
  - Checking the HTML of all new web pages to make sure accessible elements are used, including alt tags, long descriptions, and captions, as needed;
  - Making sure photos, graphics, scanned images, or image maps, include alt tags and/or long descriptions;
  - Paying particular attention to the accessibility of online forms and tables; and,
  - Posting documents on the website which are provided in HTML or a text-based format even if you are also providing them in another format, such as Portable Document Format (PDF).
- Develop a plan for making your existing web content more accessible. Describe your plan on an accessible web page. Encourage input on improvements, including which pages should be given high priority for change. Let citizens know about the standards or guidelines being used. Consider making the more popular web pages a priority;
- Ensure that in-house staff and contractors responsible for web page and content development are properly trained;

- Provide a way for those who visit your site to request accessible information or services by posting a telephone number or E-mail address on your home page. Establish procedures to ensure a quick response to users with disabilities who are trying to obtain information or services in this way; and,
- Periodically enlist disability groups to test your pages for ease of use, and implement recommendations they offer.

Our organization would be pleased to work with you as you begin the process of making your websites available to all citizens. Please let us know how you intend to make your websites more accessible, and let us know whether we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

[Type the sender name]

[Type the sender title]

[Type the sender company name]

### Annex 3

NOTE: This format and its contents are suggestions only. This is a sample fact sheet. All the information and categories listed may not be available to you in your precise location, or you may have different or additional statistics at your disposal. You are encouraged to use this as a guide only, remembering that the aim is to present a document which will provide the reader with facts on vision loss in a quick and convenient form. You may not be able to find all the statistics and figures it calls for. It is placed here as a model only, from which, it is hoped, you can design a fact sheet relative to your country or region that will show the situation of blind and partially sighted persons in relation to the general population. In addition to your own country's census material, information may be available from the UN and the World Health Organization (WHO).

#### Fact Sheet on Vision Loss

Prepared for (name of Agency) by (name of local organization)

Date:

Contact information:

Organization's full address, phone number(s), fax, if available, and name(s) and roles of contact person(s).

Source and date of statistical information:

Vision Loss in (name of country, city, locality etc.)

#### Population Figures

Total Population:

Number of blind and partially sighted:      % of total population

#### Populations of Blind and Partially Sighted Persons By Age Category

Age Category	% of Persons with Vision Loss	% of Total Population
Infants and Children - Age Range:		
Young Adults – Age Range:		



Working Age Adults - Age Range:		
Seniors - Age Range:		

## Education

Level of Education Completed by Age Category for Persons with Vision Loss

Age Category	Education Level Completed				
	Primary School %	Elementary School %	Secondary School %	Post-Secondary %	Post-Graduate %
Children – Age Range:					
Young Adults - Age Range:					
Working Age Adults – Age Range:					
Seniors – Age Range:					

## Unemployment Rates and Income Figures

Unemployment rate among working age adults with Vision Loss: %

Unemployment rate in total population: %

Average annual income per capita among blind and partially sighted working age adults:

Average annual income per capita in total population:

## **Annex 4**

### **The Rights Based Approach**

The Rights Based Approach (RBA) to disability and development is a conceptual framework based on international standards of human rights and directed towards the promotion and protection of those rights. The purpose of this annex is to provide a very brief overview of RBA for use as background when approaching funding agencies. The concept of RBA has wide applications in many other fields, but the purpose here is to provide a basic outline only.

### **Basic Principles**

RBA is based on the following principles:

- All people possess the right to development according to their ambitions and aspirations;
- The leadership of all development programs should rest with the people directly affected by them;
- Development programs should be directed towards the most marginalized and excluded sectors of society, such as persons with disabilities;
- Development programs should be evaluated on the basis of human development and growth, and not merely on the basis of material outputs; and,
- Development should be sustainable.

### **Key Players**

RBA classifies its key players into two categories:

- The rights-holders: the target populations.
- The duty bearers: government, the private sector and the institutions of civil society.

### **The Content of Rights**

The content of rights is derived from international and national legal frameworks. In other words, human rights are founded and defined by law.

### **Values**

RBA is based on the following values:

- Equality;

- Non-discrimination;
- Democracy;
- Accountability;
- Transparency; and
- The participation of the key players in decision making

### **Stages of Development in RBA**

- People's awakening;
- People's education;
- People's organization;
- People's power; and,
- People's action.

### **Needs Versus Rights**

When approaching funding agencies with which you wish to engage, a balance should be struck between advocacy on the basis of needs and advocacy on the basis of rights. The agencies you approach may quite likely have little or no knowledge of the specific needs of persons who are blind or partially sighted, and so those needs should be highlighted both in general and within the context of your local area. When needs are enshrined in law, they become rights, and thus it is important to convey an understanding to each agency you approach that both the needs and the rights are significant.

## Annex 5

### The UN CRPD

NOTE: For complete information on the CRPD, its implementation, and *use as an advocacy tool*, see:

<http://www.worldblindunion.org/English/resources/Pages/Toolkits.aspx>

### Questions and Answers on Basic Concepts

#### **Q. What are human rights?**

**A.** Human Rights are nothing more human needs or requirements which are essential for all human beings to live a life with dignity. If you remove 'right to' from the following phrases, the remaining words read as education; life; health; livelihoods; liberty; freedom of speech; etc., which are essentially human needs. When human needs are brought under institutional, policy or legal frameworks, then human needs become human rights.

Human rights are about the way people live together. They belong to us all because we are human. We cannot give them up or have them taken away. They apply to everyone, whatever their race, gender, religion or disability. Everyone should be treated with respect and dignity simply because they are human. While governments have primary responsibility for ensuring human rights, all people bear responsibility for respecting the human rights of others.

Adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) on December 10, 1948 marked a major milestone in the history of humankind through the introduction of a human rights instrument and the acceptance of the concept enshrined in an international legal agreement.

Adoption of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) on December 16, 1966 by the UN general assembly strengthened the human rights regime universally. The combined force of these three international legal documents constitute the international bill of rights, laying the foundation and setting the guiding principles for many other UN instruments.

**Q. What is the CRPD?**

**A.** The CRPD is a human rights convention. That is to say, a written agreement between the member countries of the United Nations Organization (UNO) to obey the same law regarding persons with disabilities. The CRPD, like the aforementioned conventions (sometimes called treaties, covenants, international agreements or legal instruments) tell governments what to do to ensure all people enjoy equal rights.

**Q. What is the difference between Hard and Soft law regimes?**

**A.** Human rights agreements, conventions, covenants, and treaties constitute the hard law regime which means these instruments are legally binding on the states parties, that is, the countries which ratify them. Declarations, rules and principles constitute the soft law regime and are not legally binding, but the states parties are nonetheless expected to follow and implement them.

The CRPD is the only convention specifically to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons with disabilities. Apart from this, there are conventions to promote and protect the rights of women, children, and migrant workers; to end racial discrimination, abolish torture, end inhuman or degrading treatment; and many other such agreements.

**Q. What does it mean to sign the CRPD?**

**A.** Signing declares to the international community the commitment of a country to follow the principles and ideas of the convention, to prohibit any act, statute or law which runs counter to the spirit and purpose of the convention that may result in the violation of the human rights of persons with disabilities, and signifies the intention to ratify the convention through its own internal legislative processes.

**Q. What should happen with the ratification of the CRPD?**

**A.** Through ratification, the country makes a commitment to the community of nations that it will take legislative, administrative, adjudicative, schematic, and programmatic measures to implement the provisions enshrined in the convention towards promotion.

**Q. Why did we need a separate disability convention?**

**A.** Disabled persons in general, and blind and partially sighted persons in particular, expected the existing human rights instruments would promote and protect their human rights on an equal basis with others, but unfortunately that did not happen. Thus, it became clear a specific

convention was needed to provide nation states with guidance as they addressed the promotion and protection of the rights of persons who are disabled.

**Q. Why is the CRPD important?**

**A.** The convention is important not only for the reasons described already, but more significantly because it reflects a change in thinking about disability. It requires governments to respect, promote, and protect the rights of disabled people and to ensure disabled people can participate fully in all aspects of social life. Disability had previously been seen as a health, charity or social welfare concern. The focus was on what was wrong with the body or behavior of the disabled person. The convention, on the other hand, recognizes that disability is part of human diversity and that disabled people have the same rights as all others. This recognition begins to address the specific human rights of disabled people within government policy and legislative practice which had not been done before.

**Q. What additional rights does the CRPD grant to persons who are blind or partially sighted?**

**A.** The CRPD does not grant any additional rights to blind or partially sighted persons since the rights recognized in the international bill of rights are the same for all and apply on equal terms to every human being regardless of differences or diversities. Nevertheless, the convention is significant because it strengthens, amplifies, and clarifies the human rights of persons with disabilities as shown in the international bill of rights, and deals with the how part by directing the nation states to take appropriate measures which are required to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by each and every person who lives with a disability.

**Q. How was the CRPD developed?**

**A.** The CRPD was developed at the United Nations and followed a unique process. Formal meetings at the UN headquarters in New York included NGOs, human rights groups, disability organizations, and national human rights institutions. All of these groups worked closely alongside governments in detailed discussions to reach agreement on the words of the convention. Disabled people and disability-led groups declared nothing about us, without us, and played a leading role in the formulation of the CRPD. A broadly diverse working group which drafted the text of the convention allowed government representatives and disabled people to work together on equal terms. Government representatives learned about disability issues, and this had a very positive effect on negotiations.

People from different disability groups also learned about each other, and how to work together towards mutually desirable outcomes.

The World Blind Union played an active role in these discussions. Its UN working group participated in all meetings of the Disability Caucus and the Ad Hoc Committee, thereby ensuring the unique requirements of blind and partially sighted persons were reflected throughout the convention.

The CRPD embraces the social model of disability and focuses on systemic and structural issues or barriers rather than impairment, which is a paradigm shift in the perspective on disability and development. It recognizes the innate potential and inherent dignity of persons who are blind or partially sighted, and places emphasis on addressing barriers to an inclusive society. Governments may need to change laws, rules, attitudes and buildings to allow blind and partially sighted persons to participate fully in society.

**Q. Who is covered by the convention?**

**A.** People covered by the convention include those with short-term and long-term impairments, be they physical, intellectual, mental, or sensory (blindness and low vision). It does not consider disability as a medical condition. Disability is seen as the result of an unwelcoming environment that prevents people with impairments living their lives as other people can.

**Q. What are the key principles of the CRPD in respect of persons with disabilities?**

**A.**

- Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence;
- Non-discrimination;
- Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- Respect for differences and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity;
- Equality of opportunity;
- Accessibility;
- Equality between men and women; and,
- Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

Human rights can be broadly divided into two categories: (A) civil and political rights which should be immediately realized since they do not have resource implications on nation states; and, (B) Economic, social and

cultural rights which should be progressively realized since they do have resource implications on the states and all countries do not have the same resources. Progressive realization mandates the states to demonstrate the progress they make in this regard.

**Q. What is reasonable accommodation?**

**A.** Disabled persons in general and, persons who are blind and partially sighted in particular, may require specific support to fully enjoy their rights and fundamental freedoms with dignity even after the environment has been made accessible, and inclusive, universal design is incorporated into services, goods and products. With due regard to the availability of resources, the service provider is expected to provide the specific support required without causing a disproportionate burden. Investment in accessibility, inclusive and universal design should not be considered as part of reasonable accommodation which is mandatory for all service providers regardless of their organizational status.

**Q. What are right enablers?**

**A.** Right enablers are pre-requisites which disabled persons may require for effective and full enjoyment of their rights. These may include supports such as assistive devices and technology, rehabilitation services, specific training, and, in the case of persons who are blind or partially sighted, eye care services etc.

**Q. What is the Optional Protocol?**

**A.** The Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was developed alongside the convention itself. It is a separate document that describes the process whereby disabled people and their organizations can make complaints to the UN. Disabled people or organizations can make complaints to the UN once all the judicial or any other grievance processes are exhausted at the country level, if their country has signed and ratified the Optional Protocol. Countries can choose to sign and ratify the convention without signing or ratifying the Optional Protocol.

**CRPD Overview**

The convention comprises 50 articles which can be divided into four groups. What follows is a subject list of the articles in each group.



Article 1 identifies the purpose of the Convention:

“To promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.”

Articles 2 and 3 provide definitions of terms and general principles.

Articles 4 to 32 define the specific rights of persons with disabilities.

Directions are included in the articles which are the obligations of countries which have ratified the convention, towards persons with disabilities. Below are the points covered by this article group:

4. General obligations;
5. Equality and non-discrimination;
6. Women with disabilities;
7. Children with disabilities;
8. Awareness-raising;
9. Accessibility ;
10. Right to life;
11. Situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies ;
12. Equal recognition before the law;
13. Access to justice;
14. Liberty and security of the person;
15. Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
16. Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse;
17. Protecting the integrity of the person;
18. Liberty of movement and nationality;
19. Living independently and being included in the community;
20. Personal mobility;
21. Freedom of expression and opinion, and access to information;
22. Respect for privacy;
23. Respect for home and the family;
24. Education;
25. Health ;
26. Habilitation and rehabilitation;
27. Work and employment;
28. Adequate standard of living and social protection;
29. Participation in political and public life;
30. Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport;
31. Statistics and data collection;
32. International cooperation;

Articles 33 to 39 focus on procedures for reporting and monitoring of the Convention. The points covered by the article group are:

33. National implementation and monitoring; Multistakeholder independent monitoring mechanism
34. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
35. Reports by States' Parties
36. Consideration of reports
37. Cooperation between States' Parties and the Committee
38. Relationship of the Committee with other bodies
39. Report of the Committee

Articles 40 to 50 focus on ratification, entry into force, and amendment of the Convention. The points covered by the Convention's final articles are:

40. Conference of States' Parties
41. Depositary
42. Signature
43. Consent to be bound
44. Regional integration organizations
45. Entry into force
46. Reservations
47. Amendments
48. Denunciation
49. Accessible format
50. Authentic texts

For the original text of the convention, see:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx>

For the text of the Optional Protocol, visit [Text of the Optional Protocol](#)