

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
**Submission to the UK International Development Committee Call for Evidence on the
inclusiveness of FCDO development strategy and delivery**

Introduction

1. Founded in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration. With 175 member states and presence in over 100 countries, IOM, as the UN Migration Agency, is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society.
2. The Organization works with its partners in the international community to assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration, advance understanding of migration issues, encourage social and economic development through migration and to uphold the well-being and human rights of all migrants.
3. According to Article 1 (c) of the IOM Constitution, one of the purposes and functions of the Organization is “to provide [...] advisory services on migration questions and other assistance as is in accord with the aims of the Organization”. The IOM Strategy, adopted by the IOM Council in 2007, further provides that the Organization will focus on inter alia “assisting States in the development and delivery of programmes, studies and technical expertise on combating migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, in a manner consistent with international law”.
4. Persons with disabilities are estimated to represent 15 per cent of the world's population or around 1.8 billion people in the world (as of 2021). It is also known that 80 per cent of persons with disabilities live in low and middle-income countries, which means that these figures are likely to be much higher in humanitarian crises. Persons with disabilities are often more at risk of poverty and are disproportionately impacted by risks in humanitarian crises. With this in mind, IOM's work focuses on reducing or removing barriers and risks faced by persons with disabilities, identifying and improving their resilience, safety and protection.
5. On the workforce side, IOM undertook a diversity and inclusion study in 2016 and in 2017 initiated a workplan and targets for gender parity, respectful work environment, harassment free environment, fair and equal treatment, LGBTIQ+ safe environment and disability inclusive environment. From a programmatic standpoint, IOM started expanding its interventions on Disability Inclusion (DI) in 2018, when the first DI Advisor position was created thanks to FCDO funds. Since then, IOM has been an active player in global discussions on disability inclusion, especially in its emergency programming –

through a number of institutional commitments and more recently through key partnerships and specific projects.

6. IOM is pleased to make a submission to this Call for Evidence with the note that given IOM's mandate and our extensive experience in disability inclusion, this document will concentrate on addressing three of the questions outlined in the inquiry:
 - The adequacy of FCDO's new disability and inclusion rights strategy as a framework for approaching disability-inclusive development;
 - The adequacy of FCDO's spending on disability-inclusive programmes and the impact of cuts to ODA programmes on people with disabilities;
 - The role of the UK in disability inclusion within the global humanitarian and development community;
7. To ensure evidence-based feedback, the points on FCDO's humanitarian work and new disability and inclusion rights strategy will focus on the areas in which IOM has worked, namely:
 - Advancing universal human rights, freedom and democracy;
 - Achieving Inclusive Health for all;
 - Delivering inclusive humanitarian action;
 - Emerging intervention area: inclusive climate action.
8. The following submission from IOM is being provided on a voluntary basis and should not be interpreted or construed as a waiver, express or implied, of the privileges and immunities of IOM and its officials.

IOM Response

The adequacy of FCDO's spending on disability-inclusive programmes and the impact of cuts to ODA programmes on people with disabilities.

9. IOM strongly welcomes FCDO's efforts and leadership on disability inclusion in recent years and recognises the role it has played in setting the example to governments and funding agencies. This leadership has been crucial to advance disability inclusion work by IOM as well as other UN Agencies and actors working on development and humanitarian settings.
10. Therefore, although we are aware of structural limitations, IOM encourages FCDO to expand its funding opportunities to programmes on inclusion of persons with disabilities and make sure no one is left behind in line with the key premise of the 2030 Agenda. IOM encourages FCDO to support strategic actions by actors to adopt a more "whole-of-organisation" approach to disability inclusion, through the development of policies and strategies. These would allow organisations to ensure

sustainable and long-term approaches to disability inclusion programmes instead of isolated and ad-hoc initiatives.

IOM Response:

The adequacy of FCDO's new disability and inclusion rights strategy as a framework for approaching disability-inclusive development;

The role of the UK in disability inclusion within the global humanitarian and development community.

FCDO intervention area: "Advancing universal human rights, freedom and democracy"

11. IOM supports FCDO's statement on full and equal enjoyment of all human rights for persons with disabilities. We particularly support FCDO's effort to influence key multilateral partners through leadership and core funding and its role in the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) network and in the Global Disability Summits.
12. IOM encourages FCDO to expand its funding to organizations committed to improving disability inclusion in their institutional set-up as well as within their programmes. It is worth noting that disability inclusion is a recent topic to many actors and therefore, increasing resources is key to success.
13. For instance, it is important for IOM to have the necessary resources to increase the number of employees with disabilities, including women with disabilities from different backgrounds, ensuring they are able to access reasonable accommodation and can perform their tasks on an equal basis with others, enjoying a work environment which is welcoming of their diversity.

FCDO intervention area: "Achieving Inclusive Health for all"

14. IOM welcomes FCDO's ambitious goal to achieve inclusive health for all. IOM advocates for inclusive Universal Health Coverage (UHC) that leaves no migrant behind through its programmes and policy. Disability inclusion is a key part of UHC and must be meaningfully advocated for, especially on behalf of migrants, refugees and displaced persons with disabilities, as these vulnerable populations are often left out of the discourse. A significant milestone for advocating for inclusive UHC, which comprises disability inclusion, has been the UNGA High-Level Meeting on UHC on 21 September 2023, where IOM, with key partners, called for the inclusion of migrants. IOM welcomes FCDO's strategy to influence disability inclusion through bilateral, multilateral and partner engagement and diplomacy.

15. Similar to FCDO's target to mainstream disability inclusion, IOM aims to provide inclusive and accessible health services – including primary care, sexual and reproductive health, maternal and child health, nutrition, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and so forth – through a multisectoral approach in close coordination with other actors and units within IOM, including Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection and Shelter, among others. IOM encourages FCDO to mainstream disability inclusion through its integrated health service support while aiming to reach the most vulnerable populations including migrants, refugees and displaced persons with disabilities, who are often left out of health service provision all together due to attitudinal, physical, communication, and financial barriers when trying to access health-care services.

16. IOM welcomes FCDO's goal to ensure data, data systems, research and evidence shape inclusive health systems. Regarding the use of the Washington Group Questions (WGQ) IOM encourages FCDO to only use the WGQ sets for the purpose of collecting data on overall prevalence of persons with disabilities and when the correct process is followed, rather than in every health data collection exercise as it may not always be appropriate. Through IOM experience, we have found that the WGQ sets are not applicable in every health programme and, therefore, IOM aims to use the question set when deemed applicable. When it is not possible to use the WGQ set, health programmes can compromise by using the World Health Organization's estimate of "15 per cent of persons living with disabilities" to calculate prevalence in a specific area.

17. IOM welcomes FCDO's support, advocacy, and inclusion of meaningful participation of persons with disabilities, especially regarding their own sexual and reproductive health and rights. IOM encourages FCDO to ensure that meaningful participation is also extended to migrants, refugees and displaced persons with disabilities, particularly those who have been displaced due to a humanitarian, climate change related events and public health emergency, as they are often left behind in the humanitarian response. Additionally, IOM encourages FCDO to recognize the compounded barriers faced by female migrants, refugees, and displaced persons with disabilities, which put them at a much higher rate of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as gender-based violence. These women and girls will also face further barriers when seeking sexual and reproductive health services and therefore specific facilitators need to be put in place to remove and reduce the impact of these barriers on their health-care access.

FCDO intervention area: "*Delivering inclusive humanitarian action*"

18. IOM welcomes FCDO's leading role in promoting disability inclusion in humanitarian action since the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, especially the role played in supporting the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action as well as the development and rollout of the IASC Guidelines of Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

19. We urge that FCDO revises its policies on the use of the WGQs to allow for more responsible use of this methodology in a way that will lead to reliable data for the right purpose. As stated in paragraph no 17, in IOM's experience it is better to use WGQs only for the purpose of collecting data on overall prevalence of persons with disabilities and when the correct process is followed - e.g., adequate time and resources for extensive training of data experts and enumerators; adequate time and resources for translation etc. Additionally, we have learned that not every programme can be monitored by counting the number of persons with disabilities supported (data disaggregation) as most activities will collect data on the affected population supported through observation. We encourage FCDO to support actors to ensure the necessary resources are in place to adequately implement the WGQs methodology.

20. IOM welcomes FCDO's support to the operationalization of the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action through core delivery partners, highlighting the importance of working with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). IOM believes in the importance of working with such partners is the best way to ensure quality of interventions on disability inclusion and encourages FCDO to provide the necessary support to facilitate such partnerships from a due diligence standpoint. It is known that in many contexts, OPDs are not always able to meet the due diligence criteria of large organizations and donors, making it virtually impossible to have them as official partners.

21. IOM also strongly supports FCDO's efforts to ensure its humanitarian programmes are fully disability inclusive as well as the focus on target interventions which address the specific root causes and harmful consequences of vulnerability and exclusion. IOM recommends that for such objectives to be met, it is important to encourage actors to promote both targeted interventions as well as to mainstream disability inclusion in all their programmes, focusing on quality not numbers. It is important that FCDO recognizes that ensuring successful programmes on disability inclusion may require more time and resources due to its recency as a topic (and the subsequent need for organizations to build capacity of their staff and ensure teams are able to deliver) as well as other fundamental aspects of disability inclusion which are often time consuming, such as reducing discrimination and ensuring participation of persons with disabilities - both those who are among the affected populations but also to ensure sustainable partnerships with OPDs.

FCDO intervention area: "*Emerging intervention area: inclusive climate action*"

22. IOM welcomes FCDO's effort in strengthening and accelerating disability-inclusive climate action. According to the IPCC (Sixth Assessment Report) the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events contribute to migration and displacement; damage livelihoods, health and security of people; and increase inequality. These impacts exacerbate underlying causes of vulnerability, especially for those already facing societal inequality because of their disability. Disasters alone led to a record number of 32.6 million internal displacements in 2022, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's Global Report on Internal Displacement (2023). And projections are that by 2050, up to 216 million people could move within their countries as a result of climate change (World Bank,

2021), without urgent and concrete climate action today. People with disabilities also face heightened protection risks and barriers to inclusion, finding themselves in trapped vulnerable climate hotspots, unable to move due to lack of infrastructure in place for disabled people.

23. In 2021, IOM decided to adopt a new Institutional Strategy on Migration, Environment and Climate Change¹ to ensure a comprehensive, evidence and rights-based approach to migration in the context of environmental degradation, climate change and disasters, for the benefit of all migrants, including those with disability and in vulnerable situations. The Strategy highlight the need for both mobility and immobility to be addressed by robust policy options. For the next decade, IOM will focus on developing solutions for people to move (i.e. managing migration in the context of climate change, environmental degradation); for people on the move (i.e. assisting and protecting migrants and displaced persons in the context of climate change, environmental degradation, and disasters); and for people to stay (i.e. making migration a choice by building resilience and addressing the climatic and environmental drivers that compel people to move)².
24. IOM encourages FCDO to consider migrants and displaced people with disabilities in their efforts to strengthen and accelerate disability-inclusive climate action aiming to enable safe, empowered, and informed decisions on human mobility by all individuals, including those with disabilities.
25. IOM recommends FCDO an inclusive mobilization of the voices of the disabled population whose mobility is impacted by climate change as part of decision-making processes related to climate change and human mobility. There is a need to guarantee that people with disabilities are not left behind.
26. In line with IOM migration mandate and role as coordinator and secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration, IOM promotes approaches that facilitate orderly, safe, responsible, and regular migration in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters. As now thoroughly evidenced, migration can be an adaptation strategy.
27. Under a FCDO-funded project (2020-2021), IOM and the Global Center for Development (CGD) co-authored two policy papers focused on environmental migration: 'Strengthening Regional Policy Frameworks to Better Respond to Environmental Migration: Recommendations for the UK Government'³ and 'Facilitating Environmental Migration through Humanitarian and Labour Pathways: Recommendations for the UK Government'.⁴ The papers provide practical recommendations for UK

¹ <https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/resources/institutional-strategy-migration-environment-and-climate-change-2021-2030-english-french-spanish-arabic>

² https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1411/files/documents/IOM-Institutional-Strategy-MECCC_0.pdf

³ <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/strengthening-regional-policy-frameworks-better-respond-environmental-migration>

⁴ <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/facilitating-environmental-migration-through-humanitarian-and-labour-pathways>

policymakers on how they could adjust existing policies to better respond to the challenges of human mobility in the context of climate change.

28. IOM supervised a research brief, led by the Pacific Resilience Partnership Technical Working Group on Human Mobility, that IOM chairs. It researches on "Women and disability in the context of climate mobility"⁵ with focuses on Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The research brief adopted a mix of research methods to critically assess the impacts of climate change on women and persons with disability and whether their needs are incorporated in the three countries' climate change and mobility policies.
29. IOM recommends FCDO considering investing in further research and evidence on climate-related impacts on disabled migrants and displaced people.

⁵https://environmentalmigration.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbdl1411/files/documents/PRP%20Briefs_Women%20and%20Disability-RD-final_19052022.pdf