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**Towards Enhanced Inclusion of Women and Girls with Disabilities through Evidence-Based Advocacy and Strengthened Accountability** *Project Brief – September 2016*

**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

The Making it Work (MIW) methodology is a set of tools to **identify, document and analyse good practices** that advance the rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This information is then used to act for change through simple steps. Documenting good practices on inclusion of people with disabilities allows key actors to analyse how these positive changes can be replicated or sustained. MIW provides users with support through tools and guidance, enabling them to make the most of what significant change was achieved already for a broader impact. This methodology is usable across sectors in development and humanitarian action.

The MIW methodology is primarily intended for people with disabilities and their representative organisations. This refers notably to Disabled People’s Organisations, none-disability and disability-focused NGOs. However, the concept of identifying, documenting and building on existing good practices can be applied to almost any setting/organisational strategy.

**WHY FOCUS ON GENDER AND DISABILITY?**

At least 1 billion women and men, girls and boys in the world have a disability. Girls and women with disabilities endure violence, abuse and exploitation twice as often as non-disabled women, over a longer period of time, and experience more serious injuries as a result of violence.

The goal of this initiative is to **increase the visibility of women and girls with disabilities within international development, human rights, gender and humanitarian action both at the national and international level**. It helps to ensure that their voices are heard on how to respond to violence, abuse and exploitation throughout the world. This initiative acknowledges the vulnerability of women and girls with disabilities to gender and disability-based violence and the lack of documented good practices around inclusive responses. This is a very participatory project that gathers various ideas, works and opinions from different people and regions. This Making It Work initiative seeks in particular to voice the concerns and experiences of women and girls with disabilities through their empowerment and meaningful participation in international and national initiatives concerning all women and girls.

**WHAT DID WE DO SO FAR?**

30 proposals submitted in response to an International Call for Good Practices were reviewed. [Ten good practices and one emerging practice](http://www.makingitwork-crpd.org/fileadmin/user/News/2016/MIW_GenderAndDisabilityInclusion_LL08_low.pdf) have been selected based on their potential to raise awareness, inform international level advocacy, and build the capacity of women and girls with disabilities and their organizations from across South, Central, and North America as well as Asia, the Middle East and Africa. These good practices have since been used for various advocacy actions in order to improve girls and women with disabilities’ lives, within a wide range of topics such as social and economic inclusion, violence prevention, or Human Rights promotion. The MIW good practices contributed in 2015 to shape the debate on gender-based violence at the [Commission on the Status of Women](http://www.unwomen.org/fr/csw/csw59-2015/preparations/expert-group-meeting), the [Conference of State Parties to the CRPD](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRPD/Pages/CRPDIndex.aspx) and the 62nd session of the [CEDAW](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CEDAW/Pages/CEDAWIndex.aspx) (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women).

**The 10 good practices can be downloaded on our website:** [**www.makingitwork-crpd.org**](http://www.makingitwork-crpd.org)**.**

**WHAT ARE WE UP FOR?**

Two regional **workshops** will be organized in Africa and Latin America, gathering local and country level advocates, to identify scaling strategies and advocacy to amplify the impact of good practices and influence change.

A “**Call for Good** **Practices**” will be launched during the AWID Forum, happening in Brazil in September 2016. This call will be an outstanding opportunity to once again identify programs and activities throughout Africa that have enjoyed some success in not only raising awareness about violence against girls and women with disabilities but also preventing it by challenging local and State policies and practices that allow such violence to continue.

Responses to this call will nourish the pull of documented existing and emerging good practices. The collected good practices will then be used as a starting point to develop new advocacy strategies, which will focus on improving the rights and inclusion of women and girls with disabilities. Such advocacy priorities will be identified by the leaders of the selected good practices during the two regional workshops mentioned above.

**THE “TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE” (TAC)**

An international **Gender and Disability Technical Advisory Committee** (TAC) was set up in January 2014. This Committee gathers experts from the fields of disabilities and gender, and decides on the major steps of the project, as well as selects the relevant good practices. Learn more about their work [here](http://www.makingitwork-crpd.org/advancing-equity-for-women-and-girls-with-disabilities/background/).

**CONTACT DETAILS**

The MIW team can be contacted by:

Email: [lfenu@handicap-international.org](mailto:lfenu@handicap-international.org)

Twitter: [@MIW\_CRPD](https://twitter.com/MIW_CRPD)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MakingItWorkCRPD/>