**Terms of Reference**

**Disability inclusive rural transformation Project**

***Background***

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is financing the grant project titled “Disability inclusive rural transformation Project”. The project aims for PwD, particularly women and youth with disabilities, to become active participants in and benefit from rural development projects tailored to fit the specific profiles of their disabilities, priority needs, constraints and opportunities in selected countries. The purpose of these Terms of Reference (TORs) is to establish the scope, details and conditions for the implementation and evaluation of the project.

More than a billion persons globally, about 15 percent of the world’s population, are estimated to have a disability. Most of them live in developing countries (WHO and World Bank 2011). This number is expected to increase because the prevalence of disability is affected by a range of factors, including aging, war and conflict, natural disasters, and forced displacement.

Disability is an evolving concept and it results from the interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. Such barriers may include unavailability of assistive devices and technology, inaccessible public spaces and transportation, and discriminatory prejudice in society. Persons with disabilities are a large and diverse population group that includes those who have physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments. Disability is a cross-cutting issue that can affect a person at any point during his or her life span. Its intersectionality with gender, race, ethnicity, language, national or social origin, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other status can result in multiple forms of exclusion, discrimination, and vulnerability.

The global development and poverty reduction agenda will not be effective unless it addresses the socioeconomic inequality of persons with disabilities and ensures their participation in all stages of development programs. People with disabilities and their households face higher rates of multidimensional poverty compared with persons or households without disabilities. These realities are amplified in rural areas. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are disability-inclusive and highlight the need to empower persons with disabilities and the responsibility of all states to respect, protect, and promote human rights for all—“leaving no one behind.” Many governments have begun operationalizing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ vision and obligations in the process of implementing the SDGs, but lack the technical know-how, evidence-based practices, and exemplars to do so effectively.

Although IFAD has addressed disability in its past and ongoing work, it has until now lacked a systematic and continuous approach to mainstreaming disability in its operations and enabling the effective participation of persons with disabilities in its activities. Mainstreaming disability is defined as: (i) identify persons or households with disabilities at the onset; (ii) improve service delivery; (iii) improve accessibility; (iv) increase employability; (v) improve overall environment for the implementation of the United National Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. A recent study commissioned by IFAD on economic activities of PwD in rural areas highlighted two main implications for IFAD’s operations: (i) PwD can be active participants in development projects that are tailored to fit the specific profiles of their disabilities; and (ii) project interventions can focus on addressing individual drivers of the association between disability and low income. IFAD’s operational guidelines on targeting have been revised to more explicitly address the inclusion of PwD. However, more guidance is needed on how IFAD-supported projects can identify PwD and their HHs and integrate disability-inclusive approaches.

***Beneficiaries***

The direct target group will include 7 000 poor rural PwD, including those with mobility and physical impairment, vision and hearing disabilities, and their households in the project area of IFAD-supported projects in the selected countries. About 30 per cent of them will be younger than 35 years old and 30 per cent will be women. The target group will also include associations of PwD, both at grass-root and at apex or national levels. Indirect target groups will comprise agricultural producers, NGOs and other economic actors who operate within the selected value chain and are contractually engaged with the direct target group and government officials at various levels.

***Goal and objectives***

The goal is for PwD, particularly women and youth with disabilities, to become active participants in and benefit from rural development projects tailored to fit the specific profiles of their disabilities, priority needs, constraints and opportunities.

This goal will be achieved through the following two objectives:

* Promote disability-inclusive income generation for PwD through skilled and unskilled labour, self-employment, entrepreneurship, and competitive employment along the targeted agro-pastoral value chains;
* Raise awareness of PwD and overcome stigma among rural development professionals and communities

The following results are expected:

* at least 7 000 PwD received tailored support (including technical, technological and financial) and are fully engaged in economic activities upstream and downstream the selected agricultural and pastoral value chains;
* income of the direct beneficiaries increased by at least 30%;
* disability-inclusive approaches that can be integrated in rural development programmes tested, documented and ready to be scaled up;
* interests of rural PwD reflected in government policies at provincial, regional or national level, strategies or programmes

***Key activities by component***

Component 1: Innovative support to promote decent and viable rural job opportunities for PwD

The objective is to develop tools, setup up support mechanisms and accompany the targeted beneficiaries to carry out economic activities, such as:

* Conduct a rapid survey within the intervention areas to identify and characterize PwD and assess their specific needs based on opportunities available within the agricultural and pastoral value chains and related jobs.
* Develop disability-inclusive approaches to (i) improve service delivery; (ii) improve accessibility; (iii) increase employability of PwD. Per job type, this will include, adapted technological packages, specific technical training, adult literacy and sign language to enable communication, Identification of partners and development of partnership (with local/national enterprises to ensure technology transfer for the manufacturing of farm equipment for example or the processing of agricultural products)
* Support to the beneficiaries. The support can concern a group or individuals and will be based on demand and the specific need of the beneficiaries. It will include a combination of training, technical support, financing, advisory services, supply of farming tools and agricultural inputs, exchange visits and knowledge sharing etc. The Grant recipient will mobilise dedicated business advisors to accompany each need.

Component 2: Create an enabling environment for the social and economic inclusion of PwD

* Awareness raising activities. The project will support awareness raising activities and organize discussions with a wide range of stakeholders at different levels (communities, government counterparts, organizations representing PwD, relevant ministries, development partners, NGOs) aimed at changing mentalities and removing cultural barriers that prevent the social and economic inclusion of PwD
* Institutional capacity building of PwD’s organisations. To ensure that PwD participate in decision processes and in policy dialogue. The project will support bringing rural PwD together into organizations or including them in existing rural producers’ organizations, build the capacity of their leaders and provide necessary institutional support to their apex structure in each country. The project will also promote national and regional networks of PwD.
* Policy engagement activities. The project will support advocacy activities for decision-makers to carry out disability inclusive policy reforms, develop disability-inclusive rural development and strengthen the technical, organizational and institutional structures (government and non-government) involved in policy dialogue.

Component 3: Coordination, monitoring and evaluation, communication and knowledge management

* The project fiduciary and administrative management will follow IFAD’s standards. Partnership and synergies with partner’s intervention will be key for effective results-based implementation and delivery.

***Countries and regions***

The grant project will focus on IFAD-supported projects in the following countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Ecuador, Georgia, India, Iraq, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Tunisia, Yemen. The implementing institution must have presence or experience in these countries.

***Linkages with IFAD investment programmes and other initiatives***

The proposal will contribute to the development and integration of disability inclusive approaches in IFAD-supported projects, policies and strategies in selected countries. Being directly linked with IFAD investment projects, the proposal will strengthen individual and organizational capacities of the national partners involved in the implementation of the selected IFAD investments for mainstreaming gender transformative approaches. It will also inform national policy processes.

In at least seven of the following IFAD-supported projects disability inclusive approaches will be tested: Burkina Faso (Agricultural Value Chains Support Project in the Southwest, Hauts-Bassins, Cascades and Boucle du Mouhoun Regions; Participatory Natural Resource Management and Rural Development Project in the North, Centre-North and East Regions); Chad (Project to Improve the Resilience of Agricultural Systems in Chad; Strengthening Productivity and Resilience of Agropastoral family Farms Project); Ecuador (Buen Vivir in Rural Territories Programme); India (Nav Tejaswini Maharashtra Rural Women's Enterprise Development Project); Georgia (Dairy Modernisation and Market Access Project); Iraq (Smallholder Agricultural Revitalization Project); Malawi (Programme for Rural Irrigation Development); Mali (Inclusive Finance in Agricultural Value Chain Project); Mozambique (Rural Enterprise Finance Project); Niger (Family Farming Development Programme; Project to Strengthen Resilience of Rural Communities to Food and Nutrition Insecurity); Tunisia (Economic, Social and Solidarity Project); Yemen (Rural Livelihood Development Project). The other projects will be part of a wider community of practitioners for knowledge exchange.

***Monitoring & Evaluation, Knowledge Management and Learning***

The recipient will be responsible for M&E and reporting to IFAD, including annual reporting of activities, outcomes and financial performance, including on indicators shown in the logical framework in this grant design document. For monitoring, an Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) will be updated/developed at the beginning of each year. An activity-based monitoring system will be adopted to ensure that all first-level results (outputs) are reported and evaluated. Semi-annual progress and annual reports will be produced by the recipient; simple one page planned versus actual activities will be required monthly. A KM plan will outline what action project staff and implementation partners will take to ensure they are able to generate, access and use knowledge and information. A systematic approach to capture how the knowledge products and tools as well as capacity development activities inform national and global processes will be undertaken at the end of the project through an outcome harvesting study. Collaboration with the IFAD In-country Offices in the selected countries will be essential. Strong linkages will also be established with IFAD Research and Impact Assessment Division (RIA) and with the Communications Division (COM).

In accordance with IFAD’s grant procedures, the grant sponsors in the Environment, Climate Gender and Social Inclusion Division (ECG) will be responsible for supervision as part of their work plan, including ensuring the adequate efforts are undertaken to achieve intended results, providing support to resolve challenges as they arise, reviewing financial and technical reports. The division will release budget for supervision, although the main type of supervision needed for this global project is not presence in the field (country supervision missions), but relates to ongoing review of outputs and monitoring. Annual grant status reports will capture progress at the country and global levels. In addition to the grant sponsors, the Regional Divisions and Country Directors will provide oversight to country selection and in-country activities, ensuring coherence and value added with ongoing efforts of IFAD. The ECG KM officer will ensure that findings from this grant will feed into the overall IFAD KM Strategy. IFAD’s finance officers will also provide oversight on financial matters associated with the project.

***Scaling-up and sustainability***

**Scaling up:** The results from this initiative will be scaled up using different operational instruments: (i) projects: systematically building disability inclusive approaches and tools into new projects; (ii) policy: strong emphasis on policy engagement to help achieve the policy and institutional conditions needed for successful national-level scaling up or to attract investment from other partners; and, (iii) knowledge: strong focus on developing and disseminating the public knowledge that has been created.

**Sustainability:** Government ownership as well as participation of partner institutions and stakeholders on the policy dialogue will ensure continuity and replication of the results and knowledge generated. A business development approach will be adopted to support economic initiatives presented by beneficiaries in order to ensure their viability and sustainability after grant completion.

***Tentative budget***

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| **Component/activities** | **IFAD (USD)** | **Grant Recipient (USD)** |
| Component 1 | 1 800 000 | TBD |
| Component 2 | 700 000 | TBD |
| Component 3 | 500 000 | TBD |
| Total | 3 000 000 | TBD |