



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR CONSULTANCY FOR ADVOCACY DOCUMENTS

1. Presentation of the service

Title of the Report:	Development of sectoral case studies on the impact of aid cuts on disability inclusion
HI Entity:	AIR – Advocacy and Institutional Relations
Objective of the service:	Production of advocacy-oriented sectoral case studies
Duration of the service:	10-12 days
Location of the service:	Home-based
ToR last updated:	01/06/2026
Author of ToR:	HI AIR Team

2. Presentation of the advocacy document and the consultancy

2-1- Why this document?

In 2025 and 2026, several donor governments significantly reduced their budgets dedicated to international humanitarian and development assistance. These widespread cuts are having severe consequences across sectors and regions, including for disability-inclusive development and humanitarian action, areas that were already structurally underfunded despite increasing international commitments.

Persons with disabilities represent approximately 1.3 billion people globally, with the majority living in low- and middle-income countries. Reduced Official Development Assistance (ODA), combined with shifting donor priorities and decreasing attention to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), risks undermining hard-won progress on disability rights and inclusion. Cuts to aid budgets may lead to:

- reduced access to essential services such as education, healthcare, protection, food assistance or rehabilitation;
- increased exclusion and inequalities for persons with disabilities;
- closure or downsizing of disability-inclusive programmes;
- weakening of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and their advocacy capacities.

In this context, Humanity & Inclusion (HI), through its advocacy team, is conducting a broader advocacy initiative aimed at documenting the impacts of aid cuts on persons with disabilities and OPDs, and generating evidence-based advocacy messages towards donor governments and multilateral actors.

The overall initiative includes three complementary components:

1. A global survey of OPDs;
2. Collection of testimonies from persons with disabilities affected by aid cuts;
3. Sectoral case studies examining donor funding trends and policy shifts in specific sectors, and their impacts on disability inclusion

The present consultancy relates to the third component: the development of synthetic, evidence-based sectoral case studies.

These case studies will contribute to HI's broader advocacy strategy on the global funding crisis and support engagement with donors, policymakers, multilateral organisations and civil society networks.

2-2- Consultancy's objectives

The objective of this consultancy is to produce two advocacy-oriented sectoral case studies examining the impact of aid cuts on disability inclusion. The sectors are chosen by HI: one case study will focus on inclusive education; the second one will focus on another sector to be confirmed.

The consultant will be expected to:

- analyse how aid cuts are affecting disability inclusion within selected sectors in both development and humanitarian contexts;
- If negative impact is confirmed, assess whether impacts result from:
 - a broader deprioritisation of the sector as a whole; and/or
 - a specific deprioritisation of disability inclusion within that sector; and/or
 - Other factors
- document potential changes in donor priorities, strategies and funding approaches;
- identify concrete impacts on persons with disabilities and OPDs through project examples and secondary evidence;
- provide comparative and cross-sector insights where relevant;
- formulate concise advocacy-oriented recommendations directed at donors.

The consultant will draw analysis from quantitative and qualitative evidence related to disability-inclusive aid financing, including from:

- OECD DAC data;

- GLAD Network resources and datasets;
- publicly available donor information;
- targeted interviews with selected stakeholders and experts where relevant;
- Findings from HI's global survey to OPDs on aid impacts;
- Individuals' testimonies collected by HI programme teams.

The case studies are expected to combine:

- quantitative funding analysis;
- qualitative evidence;
- testimonies and practical examples;
- policy analysis and advocacy recommendations.

The final outputs should remain concise, accessible and advocacy-oriented rather than academic or technical.

2-3- Advocacy targets and foreseen use of the document

The sectoral case studies will feed into HI's broader advocacy work on the consequences of aid cuts on persons with disabilities.

They may be used:

- in public advocacy publications and briefing notes;
- in engagement with donor governments, bilateral agencies and parliaments;
- during international advocacy moments and policy discussions;
- by disability and civil society networks for joint advocacy;
- in communication materials and social media content.

The intended audiences include:

- Donor governments and aid agencies;
- Policy-makers;
- UN agencies and other multilateral organisations;
- OPDs and civil society organisations.

2-4- Proposed methodology

The consultant is expected to:

- review existing literature and secondary sources;
- analyse changes in available funding, donor data and donor practices;
- review existing project examples and documentation shared by HI and partners;
- conduct a limited number of interviews if relevant;
- combine quantitative and qualitative evidence;
- ensure comparability across case studies;
- look into both humanitarian aid and development aid;
- adopt an intersectional approach to the analysis, especially in relation to the connections between disability, gender and age.

The work should focus on synthesizing and consolidating existing evidence rather than conducting large-scale original research.

2-5- Ethics

The consultant must ensure that all research, interviews and data collection processes comply with HI's ethical principles regarding data management, informed consent and protection of vulnerable individuals and organisations.

The consultant must:

- avoid exposing individuals or organisations to risk;
- ensure informed consent for any testimony or interview used;
- use respectful and rights-based language;
- clearly distinguish verified evidence from indicative or partial information.

3. Presentation of the service

3-1- Overall objective of the consultancy service

The consultancy consists of producing concise, evidence-based case studies on the impacts of aid cuts on disability inclusion in specific sectors.

The consultant will work in close coordination with HI AIR and relevant partners involved in the broader advocacy initiative.

3-2- Expected results of the service

Deliverable 1: Inception note

A short inception note for each sector, including:

- proposed methodology;
- proposed sources and interview targets;
- workplan and timeline.

Deliverable 2: Sectoral case studies

Production of two sectoral case studies (maximum 5 pages each), including:

- Sector specific context, including in relation to disability inclusion (e.g. historic donors, level of integration of disability inclusion, etc)
- analysis of donor trends and funding changes (e.g. nature and focus of aid cuts in the sector) and how they specifically affect disability inclusion (i.e. specific and mainstreaming);
- concrete examples of impacted disability inclusion programmes/projects;
- Concrete examples of impacts on persons with disabilities and OPDs (e.g. quotes from testimonies and survey findings);
- donor-focused recommendations.

Deliverable 3: Funding and donor analysis inputs

A short analytical note or annex consolidating for each sector:

- relevant OECD DAC data;
- GLAD Network resources;
- available donor-level disability inclusion funding data;
- identified evidence gaps;
- interview findings if relevant.

Deliverable 4: Final presentation and debrief

A short presentation (PowerPoint or equivalent) summarising:

- key findings and take away;
- cross-sector observations;
- strategic advocacy implications.

Participation in one online debrief session with HI teams.

3-3- Timeline of the consultancy service

The consultancy is expected to take place between June and August 2026.

An indicative timeline may include:

- inception phase;
- evidence gathering and interviews;
- drafting;
- review and revisions;
- finalisation.

The precise calendar will be agreed jointly with the consultant.

3-4- Mechanisms for communication and monitoring between the Consultant and Humanity & Inclusion

The consultant will work closely with:

- Inclusive development advocacy officer (HI AIR team);
- relevant HI technical specialists in headquarters and in programmes;
- selected external partners where relevant.

Regular coordination meetings will be organised throughout the consultancy.

4. Requested profile

4-1- Requested profile

Experienced consultant/researcher with expertise in:

- international development cooperation and/or humanitarian aid;
- disability inclusion;

- policy analysis and advocacy research;
- aid financing and donor analysis.

4-2- Expertise

- Mandatory:
 - demonstrated experience conducting policy or advocacy-oriented research;
 - strong analytical and drafting skills in English;
 - experience working on disability inclusion and/or inclusive development;
 - experience analysing donor policies or ODA trends.
- Desired:
 - familiarity with OECD DAC data and aid tracking systems;
 - experience working with OPDs or disability rights networks;
 - knowledge of international development and humanitarian sectors; knowledge of inclusive education is an asset;
 - French proficiency.

5. Application process

Applications must include:

- a) Individual:
 - ☐ Curriculum Vitae (training, experience in the areas mentioned above, lists of key publications),
 - ☐ ID card or passport of applicant
 - ☐ References,
 - ☐ A letter of motivation,
- b) Company:
 - ☐ Registration of company as consultant
 - ☐ Declaration of integrity filled out and signed
 - ☐ HI Good Practices filled out and signed
 - ☐ General Purchasing Conditions filled out and signed
- c) A technical proposal including, a minima,
 - ☐ the proposed methods.
 - ☐ a detailed calendar.
- c) A financial proposal including, a minima,
 - ☐ detailed consultancy fees
 - ☐ details of all other expenses (travel, accommodation; etc)

Please, send all required documents **by June 22nd – 2:00pm** to appel-offre-air@hi.org.