



# WE DECIDE

YOUNG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:  
EQUAL RIGHTS AND A LIFE FREE OF VIOLENCE

**International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

***High Level Panel on Realizing the SDGs by, for and with persons with disabilities***

**3 December 2018**

- Articles 23 and 25 of the CRPD: explicit reference to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights
- ICPD PoA: calls on states to address to sexual and reproductive health needs of persons with disabilities
- UNGA Resolution (Nov 2016) on Persons with Disabilities: reaffirms need for stronger data, access to health-care services, ending discrimination, increasing participation
- Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030 – principle of ‘leaving no one behind’

# WE DECIDE Global Initiative



- Centered on preventing and responding to gender based violence, and strengthening access and exercise of sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Aims to bring together gender and disability movements, as well as those working on youth and SRHR
- Aimed at supporting leadership, social inclusion and participation of women and young persons with disabilities
- Developed through a participatory process

# The challenges...



- Women with disabilities are up to 10 times more likely to experience sexual violence; and children and young people are up to 4 times more likely
- Women and young people with disabilities face significant barriers to access SRH services and CSE, that are adequate, comprehensive and free of prejudice;
- Women and girls with disabilities face forced and/or coerced sterilisation, forced contraception and/or limited or no contraceptive choices, menstrual and sexual suppression, poorly managed pregnancy and birth, forced or coerced abortion, termination of parental rights, denial of/or forced marriage
- Higher risk of facing some harmful practices
- Persons with disabilities often perceived as being asexual or hypersexual, and often times not needing SRH services, information or education

- 1. Better understanding on the situation of SRHR and GBV, as related to women and young people with disabilities**
  - ❑ Global Study on Youth and Disability, strong gender lens throughout and aim to understand young women with disabilities' realities
- 2. Strengthening service provision**
  - ❑ Developing Guidelines for Providing Rights-Based and Gender Responsive Services for women and young people with disabilities on GBV and SRHR

- 3. Promote participation of young people, including young women with disabilities**
  - Supporting the participation in key advocacy and capacity development opportunities
    - In collaboration with International Disability Alliance (IDA) i.e. WHS, ECOSOC, HRC, GA, Bridge CRPD training
    - Young women from Brazil, Kenya, Costa Rica, US and other countries have participated in several critical UN related sessions

## 4. Work at country level

- ❑ In collaboration with Inter-American Institute on Disability and Inclusive Development (iiDi) supported youth led development of SRH materials
- ❑ Developed youth friendly version of CRPD
- ❑ Working with government and partners in select countries, Morocco, Mozambique and Ecuador, to prevent and respond to GBV and strengthen access and exercise of SRHR.

## 5. Facilitate networks and mainstream disability

Bring together the gender, disability and SRHR movements and actors

- ❑ Y-Peer youth network more inclusive of young people with disabilities including young women
- ❑ Mainstream disability into other larger GBV initiatives such as Spotlight Initiative
- ❑ Persons with disabilities engaged on development of UNFPA Strategic Plan



# The Global Study: What is it?



- Global, qualitative study that engaged experts, including persons with disabilities, from around the world
- Supported by 4 field visits to Morocco, Ecuador, Mozambique, and Spain, and provides:
  - *Analysis on the situation of young persons with disabilities concerning discrimination, GBV, and SRHR;*
  - *An assessment of legal, policy, and programming developments and specific good practices in service delivery;*
  - *Recommendations to assist UNFPA and partners in building a comprehensive programme in this field*
- Available on UNFPA website; Spanish, French and all accessible versions available soon

# The Global Study: Principal Recommendations



- Young persons with disabilities and their representative organisations should be **full participants** in the design and implementation of programmes affecting their lives.
- States and civil society organisations should take measures **to build the skills and capacity of young persons with disabilities** and ensure that they have opportunities to participate in public decision-making forums.
- Equality for young people with disabilities in realising SRHR and in prevention and response to GBV **must be both formal and substantive.**
- Policymakers and others implementing programmes must keep those facing **intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination** in mind when designing interventions to truly ensure that no one is left behind.
- **Ending stigma and discrimination** against young persons with disabilities is critical to their full inclusion.

# The Guidelines: What are they?



- The guidelines provide practical and concrete recommendations for making GBV and SRHR services more inclusive of and accessible to women and young persons with disabilities
- Also provide guidance for action on laws and policies, programmes, and facilities
- Developed with Women Enabled International
- Translations underway and planned for French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian and Chinese versions
- Accessible versions underway
- Available on UNFPA Website
- Roll outs planned throughout 2019 with all regions

# The Guidelines: What are they?



- ◆ Specifically they provide guidance on:
  - Gender-based violence services for women and young persons with disabilities
    - *GBV prevention*
    - *Justice and policing services*
    - *Social Services*
    - *Protection and rehabilitation*
  - Sexual and reproductive health and rights related services for women and young persons with disabilities
    - *Contraceptive information, goods, and services*
    - *Maternal and newborn health services*
    - *Comprehensive sexuality education*
    - *Information, testing, and treatment services for STIs*

# Thank you!

