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.
WE DECIDE: Better evidence and guidance

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
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 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.
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!