

# From Disability Cards to Disability Management Information Systems for Inclusive Social Protection, Care and Support in Lower Income Countries

CRPD COSP 2026 SIDE EVENT

Monday 8 June 2026

1:15-2:30 pm

In person CR 12

[Live webcast on UNTV](#)

Sign Language Interpretation

Closed Captioning

## Background

As social protection, care and support systems expand across low- and middle-income countries, governments increasingly need practical, rights-aligned mechanisms to identify children and adults with disabilities and assess both their support needs and the related needs of caregivers and support providers. These systems are essential for enabling access to benefits, services, referrals and accommodations, and for generating the data required for planning, budgeting, monitoring and accountability.

The CRPD Committee has repeatedly called for disability assessment and related procedures to be accessible, available across the country, and focused on barriers and support requirements rather than impairment alone. Many countries have already initiated reforms to move beyond narrow, often medicalised certification processes that are difficult to access, provide limited information for planning and delivery, and are poorly linked to social protection, care and support, rehabilitation, education and other services. However, inconsistent procedures, unclear criteria and fragmented data systems can still undermine the reliability and trustworthiness of administrative decisions. Governments in LMICs therefore face the challenging task of building systems that are accessible, comprehensive, reliable and trustworthy, while operating under significant resource constraints.

To accompany these efforts, UNICEF, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), the Center for Inclusive Policy (CIP), Humanity & Inclusion (HI), in cooperation with the Digital Convergence Initiative (DCI) and other partners, have developed an initial roadmap on the administrative identification of persons with disabilities and their needs for inclusive social protection, care and support in LMICs. The development of the roadmap was financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Some country research activities informing the discussion, including work in Sierra Leone, were financed through the PENDA programme, supported by the United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (UK FCDO).

## Objective of the side event

The event will launch the public consultation on the global roadmap and bring it into dialogue with country practice. It will explore how countries can move from disability cards and stand-alone certification toward more functional, interoperable and rights-aligned disability management information systems that support referrals, case management, planning and inclusive service delivery.

## Programme and speakers

### Opening remarks

- Hon. Melrose Karminty, Minister of Social Welfare, Republic of Sierra Leone
- Astrid Harnisch, Policy Advisor, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

### Presentations and speakers

- Launching the public consultation on the global roadmap on administrative identification of persons with disabilities for inclusive social protection in LMICs  
Alexandre Cote, Disability Policy and Systems Specialist, UNICEF
- The roadmap towards DMIS in Lao PDR  
Berthor Tongpaothor, Head of Disability Development Division, Department of Policy for Devotees, Disabilities and Older Persons, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR
- Assessment instruments and disability status certification in low-income contexts: lessons from Sierra Leone  
Morgon Banks, Associate Professor, and Sara Rothenberg, assistant Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- Interoperability between social protection MIS and disability registries  
Anita Mittal and Wanza Mwathani, Digital Convergence Initiative
- Beyond identification: referrals and case management  
Herve Bernard, Technical Director Resilience & Inclusion, Humanity & Inclusion
- Interoperability and the need for harmonized disability-related administrative data  
Daniel Mont, CEO, Center for Inclusive Policy

### Closing reflections

- United Kingdom FCDO representative (TBC)

## Who should attend

Member States and Permanent Missions; ministries responsible for social protection, disability affairs, health, education and digital governance; organizations of persons with disabilities; UN agencies; bilateral and multilateral partners; researchers and practitioners working on disability inclusion, social protection, care and support, and digital systems.