



# China

## Project title

**Support to the Rights and Entitlements of Persons with Disabilities**

## Data

UN organizations ..... **ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP**

Duration ..... **July 2014 — June 2017**

Budget..... **\$349,998**

## Introduction

*“I greatly appreciate the unremitting efforts dedicated by UNESCO, ILO and other UN agencies through the UNPRPD project in providing support to China financially and technically to advance work on disability issues. Without the international community’s attention and support, it would be impossible to witness China’s progress on disability today.”*

**Mr. You Liang**

Deputy Director-General, International Affairs  
Department of China’s Disabled Persons’ Federation  
made these remarks at his statement at The UN  
Subgroup on Disability Meeting in May 2016

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## Background

The UNPRPD project in China aimed to follow a twofold approach to mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities.

On the one hand, the project strengthened the collaboration between the China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) and other DPOs through advocacy tools, knowledge and evidence-based research; on the other hand, the project aimed to target its awareness-raising efforts towards key decision makers and influencers, and facilitated collaboration on pilot initiatives among government and DPO stakeholders, providing testing and demonstration of scalable interventions with potential for high impact.

## Results

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### ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIQUE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

To facilitate dialogue and advocacy on the rights of persons with disabilities, the UN-PRPD project supported the development of a multistakeholder platform entitled the UN Subgroup of Disability (UNSGD).

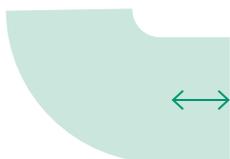
**For the first time ever, representatives from the UN, the China Disabled Persons' Federation and DPOs and the diplomatic corps have come together to coordinate and strategize on the inclusion of persons with disabilities.**

The UNSGD also offers capacity development through technical presentations by renowned experts on key issues on the disability agenda, and, very importantly, a "safe space" for open dialogue and consultation on concerns, needs, models, concepts, evidence and approaches; and mechanisms for information exchange (including an e-repository for data and analyses on disability issues in China), partnership and collective planning/joint action (including via an annual work plan) to conduct pilot initiatives and scale up awareness-raising and interventions.

Comprehensive discussions on gaps between Chinese legislation/policies and the vision provided by the CRPD were conducted, shared understandings were formed and recommendations were developed. Several of the policy advocacy efforts mentioned below in relation to persons with disabilities in China during this period resulted from the deliberations of the UNSGD. For example, as a spinoff outcome of the advocacy effort of the UN-PRPD partners and the UN Task Force, the People's Congress of China approved and launched the Family Violence Law in March 2016, which includes persons with disabilities. The law is a landmark move to bring traditionally silent victims of abuse under legal protection. It provides a channel for addressing family-related violence and emphasizes the protection of people with disabilities, children, and the elderly.



### Family Violence Law



During the process of drafting the bill on domestic violence, empowered UNPRPD partners, including DPOs, wrote and submitted fact sheets and technical suggestions on key concerns for persons with disabilities to the National People's Congress. Suggestions provided included the definition of disability, the need to address domestic violence as a human rights issue, extension of legal protections to persons with disabilities, and the need for public education on requirements of persons with disabilities. These were reflected in the Family Violence Law adopted in December 2016.

Most importantly, this has provided a platform for joint dialogue and coordination among CDPF, international NGOs and Chinese DPOs/rights-based organizations and UN entities. Now open and productive discussions, including advocacy on positions and initiatives, routinely take place in a climate of trust and collaboration. The UNSGD also enhanced dialogue and coordination on the rights of persons with disabilities on a UNCT-wide basis and beyond.

Furthermore, the tremendous momentum generated was evidenced at the concluding forum of Phase I of the UNPRPD project attended by 137 participants representing 94 entities (Ministries, CDPF, DPOs, parents' organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), international NGOs, media, professional associations, universities) to debate a way forward, including how to scale up successful interventions. Participants asked for the forum to be repeated annually, as a mechanism to discuss and assess progress towards full rights and entitlements of persons with disabilities in China.



Entities

94

**Concluding Forum had significant buy in-attended by representatives of 94 entities**

Participants

137



Ministries, CDPF, DPOs, parents' organizations, CSOs, international NGOs, media, professional associations, universities

## STRENGTHENED LAWS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS

Partnership building, evidence-based advocacy, and technical support through the UNPRPD Project led to significant changes in laws, policies and strategic frameworks to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities in China. Several examples are provided below.

In June 2016, influenced by the findings and recommendations of the UNPRPD supported research on child welfare provision for children with disabilities and UNICEF's advocacy, the Chinese State Council launched the policy on "Strengthening Social Protection for Children Living in Extremely Difficult Circumstances". The document introduces specific requirements for central ministries and local governments in providing comprehensive assistance to children, particularly children with disabilities, across a range of areas.

The evidence-based research produced by the project, as well as some key stakeholders that the project engaged with, contributed to the discussion and debate around policymaking regarding inclusive education that eventually led to the passing of the revised Regulations on Education for Persons with Disabilities.

**More than 4 million children with disabilities are likely to be impacted by the new Law on Education, which promotes inclusive education, enabling them to enjoy higher quality education in mainstream schools.**

Collaboration with the CDPF led to the inclusion, for the first time, of supported employment (SE) in the 13th National Disability Development Plan. The Plan calls for 2,500 job coaches to be trained over five years, and a training system for SE job coaches to be established by 2020.

This is the result of extensive advocacy undertaken through the UNPRPD Project. CDPF plans to establish a fund to hold the levy, which is applied to all enterprises that do not succeed in recruiting persons with disabilities as at least 1.5 percent of their workforce. The fund will be used to finance the training of job coaches and support companies.

In September 2015, the Ministry of Finance, the State Tax Bureau, the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the CDPF jointly issued a new regulation on the use and management of the employment security fund for persons with disabilities, which is advocated for by CDPF and other DPOs. Many of the contents reflect the suggestions from DPOs, and the UNPRPD Project inputs are reflected in the document. These include how it is used, how to support employers on reasonable accommodation, and financing SE. The application of the levy has created incentives for businesses to hire 10.73 million people with severe disabilities. Furthermore, the levy funds can be used to promote SE for persons with severe disabilities. There are around 12 million persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in China. Data from CDPF shows that less than 10 percent of them could find jobs while they were of employable age. SE was shown to be an effective way for persons with disabilities to get and keep a job in the open labour market, leading to its adoption as a national strategy.

Furthermore, Inclusion China, a family association for persons with intellectual and mental disabilities, received technical support from UNPRPD in submitting a legislative proposal to the National People's Congress in 2016, as well as for submitting five legislative proposals to five provincial governments on inclusive employment and its supporting systems.

Services for children

Supported employment

# 2,500

Job coaches to be trained over five years



# 10.73 million

As a result of supported employment and the application of levy funds, 10.73 million persons with severe disabilities in China are more likely to be employed

**CHANGING ATTITUDES AND BUILDING CAPACITY**

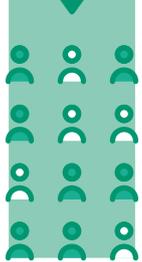
Competence

Confidence

Commitment



Spinoff results



**Disability Equality Trainings (DETs) have begun to bring about spinoff results. After DET, many of the participants launched collaborative efforts to reduce the barriers in the policy and social environment.**

The UNPRPD project in China has made significant efforts to shift attitudes, knowledge and practice of key stakeholders with respect to the rights of persons with disabilities. The project built capacities and supported DPOs and NGOs in delivering training to key professionals, including Disability Equality Training (DET), a dynamic, highly participatory and interactive approach to stimulating fundamental attitudinal change towards disability inclusion among participants. DET effectively transformed attitudes and built confidence, competences and commitment of key professionals and the general public, to include and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. 350 professionals – including 80 media professionals and communications officers from DPOs (49 women), 70 legal professionals (20 women), 140 employers and HR managers, 60 DPO representatives (53 women) – were trained. Efforts will be scaled up in the second phase of the project in 2018-2019 to train an additional 250 professionals who will develop action plans on disability inclusion for their organizations, as well as more DET facilitators. This will be sustained by establishing a formal community of practice involving key disability stakeholders, which hosts the knowledge and generates evidence for policy advocacy.

Jiang Su Provincial Disabled Persons Federation (DPF) held at least 10 DETs. Following this, JiangSu DPF then invited many experts on CRPD to provide training and to change the mindset of local staff. More than 50 legal service providers, including lawyers, legal aid providers, and staff from Beijing and Wuhan DPF were sensitized about disability inclusion through DET. Some of the lawyers who were trained established a volunteer disability lawyers' group, dedicated to providing *pro bono* legal services for persons with disabilities. The group was later registered as an NGO by one of the female lawyers trained through the project. Convinced by the impact of DET, the Beijing DPF requested further awareness trainings for its district-level DPF coordinators, following which UNDP delivered a participatory workshop on the CRPD to 250 community-level DPF coordinators. Through the UNPRPD, 20 local facilitators of DET were trained and a community of practice was formed between them. This group of facilitators has allowed the UNPRPD partners to influence CDPF and the UN system in general through DET.

DET-trained journalists developed a media guide on rights-based reporting on disability and formed an online group of journalists and DPOs for mutual support. This had wide-ranging effects, leading to change in media narratives with greater focus on the capacities of persons with disabilities and a shift away from a charity approach.



Pro bono legal services

Media guidelines

For example, after attending DET, the Family Association in Guangzhou united to advocate with the Guangzhou City Government for the development of policies on SE and the government responded by making a plan.

60 DPO representatives

140 Employers and HR managers

80 Media professionals

70 Legal professionals

Additional training 2018-2019

250

Professionals

350

Training





## THE UNITED NATIONS PARTNERSHIP ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (UNPRPD)

Officially launched in 2011, the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) is a unique collaborative effort that brings together UN entities, governments, disabled people's organizations and the broader civil society to advance disability rights around the world. The UNPRPD supports the full implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by facilitating policy dialogue, coalition-building and capacity-development at country, regional and global levels. In doing so, it leverages the comparative advantage of multiple stakeholders to advance the vision of a "society for all" in the 21st century.

The UN entities participating in the UNPRPD are the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's

Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the World Health Organization (WHO). The UNDP Inclusive Political Processes Team serves as the Technical Secretariat for the Partnership. The UNPRPD also works closely with multiple civil society organizations including the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC).

The UNPRPD is supported by the UNPRPD Fund, a Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) established to mobilize resources for the Partnership. The UNPRPD MPTF is administered by the UNDP Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) and builds on the experience developed by the MPTF Office in managing multiple Multi-Partner Trust Funds and joint programmes around the world.