

POLICY

Programme Approach, Policies and Guidelines



This document describes Light for the World's **approach to its programmes** and advocacy work. It gives an overview of the most important **guidelines, policies** and **quality standards**.

Our programme approach

Our programme approach is based on our vision, mission and driving values:

Light for the World is an international disability & development organisation, **breaking down barriers** to create an **inclusive society where everyone's potential is unlocked**. We enable

- comprehensive **eye health services** and
- **empower women and men, girls and boys with disabilities** in some of the poorest regions of the world.

Our target group: Who we aim to reach

We focus on the **poorest and hardest to reach** because those people need it most.

We concentrate on **selected countries** where the need is great (according to the Human Development Index)

and where we believe we can achieve **long-term system change** by strengthening the existing (health, education, social) set-up so it reaches those who need the services the most for many years to come.

In these countries, we focus on **reaching the most vulnerable people with disabilities**, often those living in **rural areas**.

Our mandate: What we do

Eye Health

Comprehensive Eye Health, Trachoma and Onchocerciasis

Disability Inclusion

Education, Economic Empowerment

To achieve systemic change throughout all three thematic areas we support **Disability Inclusion in Community Development** and **organisations**, and link it with **advocacy on national and international levels**.

Our partners: Who we work with

We create change through **local people, organisations and governments** because we want our impact to last.

We implement our programmes through partners, building long-term partnerships with local non-profit and non-governmental organisations as well as with public institutions.

This way, we ensure that the actions we support are **locally owned** as well as **contextually** and **culturally relevant**.

We provide technical and financial support to strengthen the capacities of our partners, making sure their work can go beyond a project's end date.

We work **hand in hand with government institutions**, supporting them to develop their plans, but also to implement practical initiatives on the ground. By doing this, we aim to bring about long-term change through strengthening health, education, employment and social systems. Collaboration with **private institutions**, where reasonable and applicable, complement the approach.

We uphold the global disability movement's principle "Nothing about us, without us". We support and encourage **people with disabilities to play an active role** in our programmes and in the wider development agenda.

Our approach: How we bring about change

We aim to **change lives** and to **change systems** by supporting concrete local and regional projects and feeding learnings into national and international policies and debates.

To bring about lasting change for the **individual** as well as for generations to follow, we believe in looking beyond a person's immediate needs, and to the **root causes of poverty and inequality**.

We do this by designing and implementing actions that:

- improve the quality of life of the **most vulnerable people** and change attitudes in their **communities** for the better;
- encourage **local authorities** to play an active part and demonstrate leadership, as well as **strengthen** civil society and other local stakeholders to promote inclusion;
- generate learning for **national governments** in their efforts to strengthen their systems.

We use our experiences to inspire policymakers at **regional and international** levels as well as to influence and monitor international frameworks and strategies. We make sure **our advocacy is evidence-based** and partner with mainstream organisations, UN agencies, and networks to amplify our message.

To unlock the potential of every girl and boy, woman and man with disabilities and make a lasting change, our keys to success are (see Figure 1, p. 4):

- responding to the **specific needs** of the individual including their health, education, economic and social needs (e.g. provide assistive devices, like a white cane, assist with the learning of sign language, facilitate a cataract operation or provide access to micro-credit);
- **empowering** individuals and groups (e.g. make sure women and men with disabilities know their rights and can advocate services);
- making sure **all programmes** include and integrate the issue (e.g. government and other development programmes take women and men with disabilities into account, include eye health as part of their services, etc.);
- **breaking down barriers** in society as a whole (e.g. address communication, physical, attitudinal and/or financial barriers for people with disabilities on a structural level).

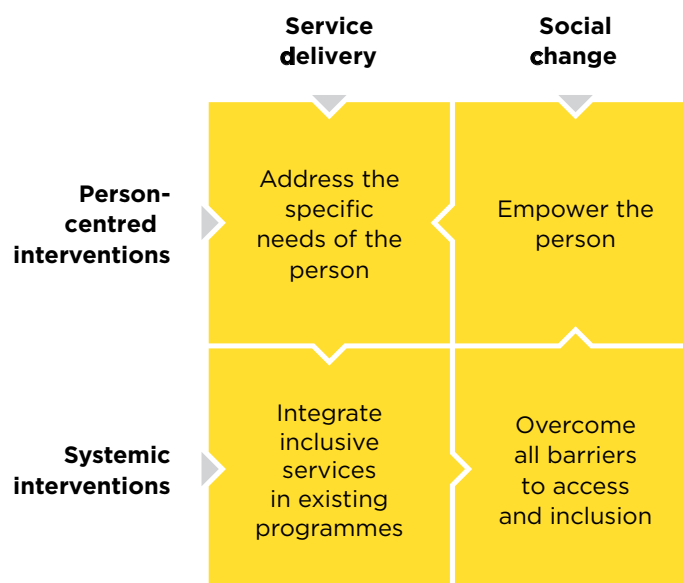


Fig. 1: Twin-track approach

While providing well-established services, we also try new things because we believe in the **power of innovation**. We explore the current and future potential of digital information and communication technologies to promote inclusion of people with disabilities and improve eye care services. Learning from innovation – successes as well as failures – is a key part of our working ethos. We pursue scaled-up approaches that have life-changing effects on people with disabilities.

We see **our role as a convener**, bringing different actors to the table to find common solutions, share expertise and complement each other. We provide **technical expertise** in the areas of disability inclusion and eye health. We **catalyse change** by influencing major donors to promote disability inclusive investments in education and sustainable approaches in eye health.

We also strive to build a culture of **evidence-based programming** to achieve the highest possible impact. As part of this goal, we have established a comprehensive **monitoring & evaluation system**, based on our effectiveness framework.

Our geographical focus: Where we work

Our **focus countries** – where we aim to implement programmes in all areas of our work and trigger systemic change – are Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Mozambique.

In other **partner countries** we implement projects and programmes with a limited scope in terms of thematic and geographic areas and without the ambition of nationwide systemic change. Partner countries are: Bolivia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Laos, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, North-East India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

When choosing focus countries, the following criteria were applied:

- Considering the most underprivileged, least-developed countries and regions;
- Considering countries and regions that are neglected by the other international professional organisations;

- Possibilities of cooperation with NGOs, organisations working in the disability sector, expert institutions, authorities, international organisations and experts;
- Synergies with European development cooperation, including national development cooperation in countries with Light for the World core or associate members;
- Existing starting points for successful advocacy and public relations;
- Expertise and existing commitment of Light for the World members in a country or region.

Light for the World might support projects beyond our focus and partner countries for the following reasons:

- ♦ Innovative approaches are followed, which might become exemplary for further programmatic development;
- ♦ Co-financing opportunities, opening follow-up potential for partner countries;
- ♦ Strategic partnerships in consortia;
- ♦ The projects are in proximity of focus or partner countries and allow synergies.

In terms of our presence in these countries we distinguish between:

- **Countries with direct presence of Light for the World:** Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda;
- **Countries with partner presence:** Bolivia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North-East India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda;
- **Countries with presence of clients of the Disability Inclusion Lab:** Myanmar, Nepal, Laos, Indonesia.

Our guiding frameworks: Which policies and instruments lead the way?

Our work supports and is strongly guided by the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.

Our work also contributes to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, especially its guiding principle to “**Leave no one behind**”.

We aim to contribute to:

- ♦ SDG 1 No Poverty
- ♦ SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being
- ♦ SDG 4 Quality Education
- ♦ SDG 5 Gender Equality
- ♦ SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
- ♦ SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
- ♦ SDG 9 Innovation and Infrastructure
- ♦ SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities
- ♦ SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
- ♦ SDG 17 Partnerships

In the field of Eye Health, the Global Initiative for the Elimination of Avoidable Blindness **VISION 2020** as well as the **WHO Global Action Plan 2014-2019: Towards Universal Eye Health**¹ provide the guiding frameworks for our programmes and advocacy. In 2020, a **World Report on Vision** is expected to be published and to further guide the way of Light for the World and the sector.

The **WHO CBR Guidelines**² continue to be the main reference for Light for the World's work on Disability Inclusion in Community Development in health, education, livelihoods and the social sphere, as well as supporting empowerment. The year 2020 will mark 10 years of the CBR Guidelines.

¹ www.who.int/blindness/actionplan/en/

² www.who.int/disabilities/cbr/guidelines/en/

The **Rehabilitation 2030**³ initiative of the WHO, which aims to improve rehabilitation services in low- and middle-income countries, emerges as a new guiding framework for our work. Development of better rehabilitation services within the existing health services will support earlier detection of girls and boys with disabilities and ensure that they get the services at the time they need it most.

In Disability Inclusive Education, **Article 24 of the CRPD** and its comments provide a strong basis for our work. **General Comment No. 4**⁴ on this article provides clarity on how to implement disability inclusive education. It clearly states that realising disability inclusive education for girls and boys with disabilities requires in-depth transformation

3 www.who.int/disabilities/care/rehab-2030/en/

4 www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/crpd/pages/gc.aspx

of the education system. Legislation, policies, mechanism for financing, administering, designing and monitoring education must change to align with the CRPD and **Goal 4 of the SDGs**. There is an increasing focus internationally on youth (un)employment.

In terms of economic empowerment, we contribute to **SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth**, in particular target 8.5⁵ that has a specific reference to persons with disabilities, as well as **Article 27⁶ of the CRPD** on work and employment.

5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.

6 <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities/article-27-work-and-employment.html>

Programme-related guidelines, policies and quality standards

A number of international guidelines, policies, strategies and quality criteria to guide our programmes have been developed internally at Light for the World. They are embedded within a wider logic of policies throughout our entire organisation, which we refer to as the “sustainability triangle”⁷.

When we develop a programmatic policy paper, we aim to review and introduce it throughout the entire Light for the World “family”, including core and associate members.

In addition to the examples mentioned below, national policies, guidelines and standards also exist.

7 https://link.light-for-the-world.org/File:Light_for_the_World's_Sustainability_Triangle_-_Policies.pptx

Country strategies

- For **focus countries**, four- to five-year country strategies translate the objectives of the Strategic Framework and the approaches defined in thematic policies into actionable and evidence-based country-specific strategic plans. At the end of the strategy cycle, **country strategies** undergo comprehensive evaluations, the results of which feed into the subsequent planning and implementation cycle.
- For **partner countries**, with direct or partner presence, **strategic outlines** over three to five years are developed for the same purpose.
- On an annual basis, country strategies and strategic country outlines are further planned out and specified through comprehensive **Annual Work Plans**, including their budget allocation.

Thematic policies

- ♦ Policy – Comprehensive Eye Health
- ♦ Policy – Disability Inclusion in Community Development
- ♦ Policy – Disability Inclusive Education
- ♦ Policy – Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Overall and cross-cutting policies

- ♦ Policy – Gender
- ♦ Policy – Environment
- ♦ Policy – Anti-Corruption
- ♦ Policy – Safeguarding, including Code of Conduct

Selection and accompaniment of programmes and partners

- Policy Partnerships in Programmes, including assessment and development tools
- Policy Partnerships with Disabled People's Organisations
- Country Lead Concept
- Process Manual for Programmes, Light for the World International, covering:
 - ♦ Project cycle management for programme support
 - ♦ Procurement of supplies and equipment
 - ♦ Donations in kind
 - ♦ Consultancies and support with expertise
- Grant Management Manual, Light for the World International
- Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy, Light for the World International
- Donations in Kind Guideline, Light for the World International

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Light for the World

Niederhofstrasse 26
 1120 Vienna, Austria
 Europe

www.light-for-the-world.org

info@light-for-the-world.org

