

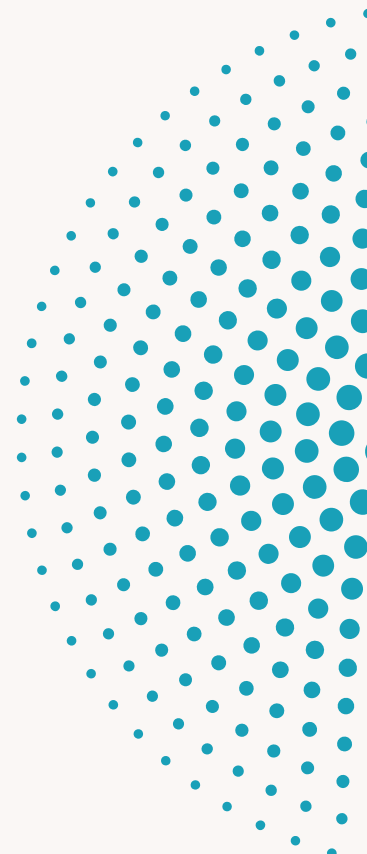


IMPATIENCE
WELLBEING

Investing in Disability-Inclusive Climate Justice:

A guide for funders

2025



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We extend our deep gratitude to all of the organisations that contributed to this guide; their names are listed in the appendix.

We would also like to thank the [Climate Justice Just Transition Collaborative](#) for providing funding for this guide and giving us space to explore the intersection of disability rights and climate justice as part of their webinar series in 2023.

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Indonesia's disability movement is growing in strength with increasing participation of young persons with disabilities.

Photo:
Rucha Chitnis

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Foreword



My name is Morgan Mazé, an international self-advocate with Down syndrome. I am 26 years young and I live in Jakarta, Indonesia. I am pleased to share this guide because I recently learned a lot about the topic through a class that my organisation (YAPESDI) held for me and my friends. Before learning about climate change, my friends and I did not realize how much it affects people with disabilities like us. Now, we are more aware of the problem and have started to take it seriously. Now,

we practice what we learned and what we can do—reducing, reusing, saving energy when we can, eating more vegetables and fruits instead of meat, and using public transportation instead of our cars.

My friends and I are working together to make these small changes that we hope will make a big difference. It feels good to know that we can help too, but I also think there's still a lot of work to do. Many people with disabilities don't have the same chance to learn and take part in climate action. I hope more people will care about including us in climate action. It's not fair that we are often left out of plans and solutions. We face bigger problems like health risks and losing our homes (my friend had to evacuate when her house was flooded), so it's important to make sure we are part of solutions too.

I believe everyone benefits when people with disabilities are included. More of us can get involved, if funders and environmental groups support disability-led projects and make information accessible (in Easy Read or plain language, Braille and sign language). By working together, we can fight climate change in a way that includes everyone and makes the world a better place.

Thank you!

Morgan



Plain Language Overview



Plain Language Overview

This guide highlights how climate change affects people with disabilities more than others. It shows how little funding is going to disability-inclusive climate action, and proposes solutions. It's based on research and talks with disability groups, environmental groups and funders.

Key Points:

- **People with disabilities are more exposed to climate problems:** People with disabilities already face a lot of challenges. Climate change makes these worse. They face bigger health risks, lose their jobs more easily than non-disabled people and are often excluded from programmes that could help.
- **We need to team up to solve these problems:** Funders and environmental groups need to make sure their climate actions include people with disabilities.
- **Solutions exist:** The guide gives ideas for how funders can help. They include giving money to disability-led groups, connecting them to climate groups and making information accessible.

Remember:

- We can't address climate change without including people with disabilities.
- When we make things accessible for people with disabilities, it helps everyone.
- Disability groups, environmental groups and funders need to work together to solve these problems.





[Easy Read Version \(download\)](#)



Glossary of Acronyms & Key Concepts

- **Ableism/Disablism:** Ableism is discrimination in favour of non-disabled people. Disablism is discrimination against disabled people. Neither term is wrong and they are often used interchangeably, depending on the user and the context. ([SCOPE](#))
- **Accessibility:** Allows people with disabilities to have access to and enjoy physical environments, transportation, facilities, services, information and communications, including new technologies and systems. When planning for accessibility, universal design principles should be used. ([UNCRPD](#))
- **Barriers:** Disability results from the interaction between people with impairments and the barriers in the environment around them. Barriers can be broadly categorised as: Environmental barriers, which are imposed by the context (including physical, communication and policy barriers), and attitudinal barriers that can lead to apathy or inertia addressing other barriers. ([UNCRPD](#))
- **Black and racially minoritised communities:** We recognise that this terminology is imperfect – that referring to communities considered to be ‘non-white’ in majority white countries as an homogenous group is reductive, and that some groups (including persons with albinism) in Global South countries are racialised. Where possible (given quoting of literature or respondents) we have used the term ‘Black and racially minoritised’ over other terms.
- **Climate justice philanthropy:** While there is currently no universally agreed definition, when we use the term in this guide we are referring to funding that tackles the root causes of climate change while addressing the disproportionate impacts on marginalised communities, especially those who are historically underrepresented or excluded from decision-making.
- **Collective liberation:** A social justice framework acknowledging that systems of oppression and inequality – e.g. ableism, caste, classism, imperialism, racism and sexism – are intertwined, as are their solutions; that no one is free until everyone is free. Refer to [Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice](#) for more.
- **Disability inclusion:** Refers to the meaningful participation of people with disabilities, the promotion and mainstreaming of their rights, the development of disability-specific programmes and the consideration of disability-related perspectives, in compliance with UNCRPD. ([UN Disability Inclusion Strategy](#))
- **Disability mainstreaming:** Embedding disability rights in the design, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes, and ensuring meaningful participation. Mainstreaming efforts should be accompanied by disability-specific actions – the “twin-track approach.”” ([OHCHR](#))

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- **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):** Disaster risk reduction is the concept and practice of reducing disaster risks through systematic efforts to analyse and reduce the causal factors of disasters. ([UNESCO](#))
 - **Easy Read:** To make written information easier to understand, Easy Read documents usually combine short, jargon-free sentences with simple, clear images to help explain the content. It is increasingly used to help some people with disabilities, but it can also be useful for other groups, such as people who speak English as a second language. ([AbilityNet](#))
 - **Eco-ableism:** “The marginalisation of disabled people through environmental design; exclusion of disabled people in environmental decision-making; discrimination against disabled people through environmental discourses, beliefs, and attitudes; and privileging of typically abled bodies and minds through environmental design, practices and discourses.” ([Crippling Environmental Communication](#))
 - **Global South:** Refers to a group of nations - primarily in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean - that are often characterised by lower income levels compared to the “Global North,” which includes Europe, North America, and the high-income nations in Asia and Oceania. While it has a geographical component, current usage of “Global South” is more about shared socio-economic realities and other characteristics, including those related to a history of colonization. We recognise that there are many legitimate debates around this classification terminology. For the purposes of this guide, we have chosen to use “Global South” for accessibility.
 - **I/NGO:** Nongovernmental organisation working internationally (INGO) or nationally (NGO).
 - **Independent living:** The right of people with disabilities to live in the community with the support they require to make choices and control their lives. This includes freedom to make decisions about living arrangements, and access to community support, services and facilities. ([UNCRPD Article 19](#))
 - **Intersectional discrimination:** In the context of this guide, it “occurs when a person with a disability [...] suffers discrimination of any form on the basis of disability, combined with colour, sex, language, religion, ethnic, gender or other status. Intersectional discrimination can appear as direct or indirect discrimination, denial of reasonable accommodation or harassment.” ([UNCRPD Committee](#))
 - **Intersectionality:** A term [coined in 1989 by Professor Kimberlé Crenshaw](#) to describe the double bind of simultaneous racial and gender prejudice. Intersectionality [can be used as a framework for understanding the systemic nature of oppression](#) – including how power dynamics operate and exacerbate oppression for marginalised groups. Applying this framework helps us understand how disability intersects with other aspects of identity – such as race, gender, age and sexual orientation – and develop solutions.

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- **Loss and damage:** The negative effects of climate change – including both sudden-onset events like storms and slow-onset processes like sea-level rise, as well as economic and non-economic losses like loss of life, cultural heritage and biodiversity – that occur despite mitigation and adaptation efforts, and have a disproportionate impact in the Global South. Refer to the [Loss and Damage Collaboration](#) for more.
 - **OPD:** Also referred to as a DPO (Disabled Peoples’ Organisation) or a DDPO (Deaf/deaf and Disabled Peoples’ Organisation), an OPD is a representative organisation or group of people with disabilities, where they constitute a majority of personnel at all levels. ([UNCRPD GC No.7 on Article 4.3 and 33.3](#))
 - **Person with a disability:** In the person-first language of the UNCRPD, a “person who has some type of physical, intellectual, mental, cognitive or sensory impairment that, in interaction with various barriers, may hinder full participation in society on an equal basis with others.” Many prefer identity-first language (i.e. disabled person) - defer to how people self-describe. ([UNCRPD](#))
 - **Reasonable accommodations (also, “[reasonable adjustments](#)”):** Necessary and appropriate modifications or adjustments to a job, service, facility or process, not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, that enable a person with a disability to exercise their rights and participate on an equal basis with others. ([UNCRPD Article 2](#))
 - **Social model of disability:** A rights-based approach, emphasising that disability results from the interaction between impairments and societal barriers, and focusing on removing these barriers to ensure the full and effective participation of people with disabilities in society on an equal basis with others. ([UNCRPD Preamble](#))
 - **Twin-track approach:** Disability inclusion through systematic mainstreaming, alongside focused and monitored action aimed specifically at people with disabilities. ([UN Disability Inclusion Strategy](#))
 - **UNCRPD:** The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is “an international treaty that aims to ensure people with disabilities enjoy the same human rights and fundamental freedoms as everyone else, by setting out specific standards [...] to protect and promote rights in areas like access to education, employment and healthcare.” ([UN DESA](#))
 - **UNFCCC:** The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is an international treaty with nearly universal membership that provides “a framework for countries to work together to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.” ([UNFCCC](#))



Executive Summary

This guide explores the intersection between disability rights and climate justice, emphasising the disproportionate impact of climate change on people with disabilities among other marginalised groups. Given the lack of funding to address these inequities, research findings and recommendations are presented. The research involved reviewing existing literature and analysing inputs from organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs/DPOs), nongovernmental organisations (I/NGOs) and philanthropic funders. The findings underscore the urgent and strategic imperative to increase support for intersectional, disability-inclusive and gender-just approaches to climate action that prioritise equity, interdependence and individuality.

THE REALITY: Marginalised groups bear the brunt of climate change consequences, due to existing systemic inequalities that are exacerbated by climate shocks and other polycrisis risks. People with disabilities, who are often the poorest in their communities, are particularly exposed to climate harm. Consultations for this guide highlighted many ways that climate change impacts people with disabilities, such as: health disparities, loss of income, increased violence, inaccessibility, isolation and exclusion. These issues are further compounded for people with disabilities who belong to other marginalised groups, including women, LGBTQI individuals, youth, older people, Indigenous, Black and racially minoritised communities.

THE RESPONSE: Despite growing attention to international climate finance gaps impacting the Global South, funding for disability-inclusive climate justice remains scarce. Most climate funding is directed towards mitigation and large organisations, while grants for disability rights often support medicalised models and are concentrated in the minority world. This lack of resources for intersectional approaches hinders progress towards equitable and effective climate action. Analysing the insights shared by OPDs, I/NGOs and funders clarified the obstacles and opportunities at this intersection.



OBSTACLES: While 90% of OPD and I/NGO respondents indicated they are working at this intersection, only 30% of that collective work is funded. In light of this significant shortfall, they reported numerous barriers limiting their engagement in disability-inclusive climate justice work, emphasising that:

- **Money is tight:** The very limited funding opportunities available for inclusive climate work are mostly short-term and project-based, hindering long-term planning and progress.
- **Collaboration is missing:** Meaningful partnerships between OPDs and environmental organisations are needed to foster knowledge exchange and joint initiatives.
- **Capacity is lacking:** OPDs often lack climate expertise, while I/NGOs lack knowledge on disability inclusion and accessibility.
- **Opportunities are inaccessible:** Grant application processes favour large organisations and are often inaccessible to grassroots OPDs.
- **Priorities are many:** Community concerns like economic justice and health can overshadow climate advocacy for OPDs and disability inclusion for I/NGOs.
- **Stigma persists:** OPDs are often viewed as beneficiaries rather than partners.
- **Policies exclude:** Existing frameworks often fail to address the needs of people with disabilities in the context of climate change.
- **Research is needed:** Reliable data on the intersection of climate change and disability is scarce, hindering advocacy and collaboration.
- **Intersectionality requires capacity:** Few organisations feel equipped to address the intersections of disability with other marginalised identities, in the context of climate change.
- **Still left out:** OPDs are frequently excluded from climate discussions and decision-making.

Of the funder respondents, 82% support climate action and 94% provide grants for other marginalised groups (especially women and youth) to engage in that work, while only 24% have funded disability-inclusive climate justice. When asked why investment is so low at this intersection, funders observed that philanthropy can be:


- **Uninformed:** Climate grantmakers often don't consider disability as part of their mandate, overlooking the significant numbers of people with disabilities in the marginalised communities they support.
- **Overwhelmed:** Many funders expressed dismay about their inattention to disability inclusion. They fear making mistakes, appearing tokenistic or not meeting community expectations. Most believe their organisations lack the internal capacity, resources and expertise to strategically integrate disability and climate work.



- **Disconnected:** Funders perceive a lack of qualified grantee prospects at this intersection and don't have connections to experienced disability organisations in the climate space. They also note that grassroots organisations often lack the institutional capacity to meet their grant application requirements, creating an impasse.
- **Siloed:** Disability is often seen as a niche issue rather than an integral part of social justice movements. Many respondents observed that this hinders intersectional approaches and collective progress.
- **Top-heavy:** Climate funding tends to favour large and well-established delivery organisations, neglecting grassroots groups, movements and processes that are crucial for inclusive and effective climate action.

OPPORTUNITIES: To help philanthropy better support disability-inclusive climate justice, OPDs and I/NGOs shared numerous recommendations, emphasising that funders should:

- **Fund inclusively, flexibly and sustainably:** Make funding accessible to grassroots organisations by conducting outreach, simplifying applications, reducing restrictions and providing long-term support.
- **Close the collaboration gap:** Encourage (and fund) partnerships and knowledge-sharing between OPDs, environmental organisations and other movements.
- **Prioritise knowledge generation and access:** Support research and accessible communications on the intersection of climate change and disability, led by OPDs with environmental groups as partners.
- **Promote participation:** Champion disability leadership, OPD-led advocacy for inclusive climate policy and practice, and engagement in climate decision-making fora.
- **Support movement work, and mutual aid:** Remember that while OPDs prioritise rights-based advocacy to promote their rights and inclusion, many also want to lead on supporting their communities directly in the face of climate catastrophe.
- **Strengthen capacity:** Invest in training for OPDs and I/NGOs on climate justice, advocacy and research, and fund OPDs to train environmental organisations on inclusion and accessibility.
- **Focus on intersectionality:** Fund initiatives addressing the interplay of discriminations faced by people with disabilities who also belong to other groups (such as women, youth and Indigenous people).
- **Build on what you already do:** Adapt approaches that have been successful to support other marginalised communities to engage in this work.



Funder respondents echoed many of those recommendations and indicated that research, networking and capacity-building support would be most helpful to implement them.

Bringing it all together, funders can commit to these “I”s in support of disability-inclusive climate justice:

- ✓ **Internalise** inclusion and accessibility within your staffing, communications and organisational practices.
- ✓ **Integrate** intersectionality, intentionally. Dismantle the silos, prioritising disability and climate as “cross-cutting.” Fund cross-movement collaboration, including underrepresented groups.
- ✓ **Invest** in Global Majority movements substantially, sustainably, and flexibly – in line with trust-based philanthropy.
- ✓ **Improve** your grantmaking to ensure accessibility – across application guidelines, reporting requirements, and communication channels – and a user-friendly process for all.
- ✓ **Implement** existing strategies to foster collaboration between OPDs and environmental organisations. Twin track your approach by providing direct funding to OPDs working on climate justice, and to environmental organisations working on disability justice.
- ✓ **Involve** your organisation in relevant communities of practice. Influence other funders and movements to join this effort. We are better together!
- ✓ **Inform** your strategies by learning from OPDs and inclusive environmental organisations, ensuring funding addresses key priorities. Iterate, evaluate, repeat.

Start small, but start somewhere! We are committed to helping funders better support disability-inclusive climate justice.

Please [submit this short form](#) and we'll help.



Introduction

We know that [climate change is getting worse](#), and that Global South communities suffer the most from its consequences, despite contributing the least to greenhouse gas emissions. We know that [climate harm disproportionately impacts the most marginalised](#), and many funders have responded by prioritising the inclusion of some groups – such as women, young people and Indigenous communities – in their climate funding. However, initiatives at the intersection of disability rights and climate justice remain rare, and funder research scarcer still. To begin filling that gap, [Impatience Earth](#), [Impatience Wellbeing](#), [Disability Rights Fund](#) (DRF) and the [Climate Justice-Just Transition Collaborative](#) forged a partnership and [launched a webinar](#) to explore the obstacles and opportunities at this intersection.

Out of that collaboration came this participatory research project, the first of its kind, which is led by a team with lived experiences across disability, gender and racial intersectionality. We reviewed existing literature to better understand the context and guide the direction of consultations. To inform this research through the insights of OPDs, I/NGOs and funders, we launched a survey while conducting focus group discussions and structured interviews. We gathered and analysed hundreds of inputs, culminating in a validation process to ensure the accurate representation of respondents' voices.

Those voices highlighted the disproportionate impact of climate change on people with disabilities, emphasising the urgency for a justice-oriented approach to climate action that prioritises equity, interdependence and individuality. OPDs shared innovative ideas and examples of relevant work, calling not just for more funding, but for reciprocal learning and connections to climate groups. Many environmental organisations demonstrated an understanding of collective liberation, indicating an openness to addressing eco-ableism in their work. Funders recognised their inaction at this intersection with humility and openness, expressing intentions to improve.

The intention of this guide is to foster dialogue and collaboration across climate and disability funders, OPDs and I/NGOs. We hope it strengthens philanthropy's capacity to act, by going beyond theoretical frameworks and offering practical recommendations informed by experience. Ultimately, we hope it catalyses funding and collaboration so that everyone – including the one in every six of us with a disability – has a chance to survive the climate crisis, and to drive solutions together.

The Reality



Approximately [half of humanity](#) lives in areas highly susceptible to climate change, which could result in [14.5 million additional deaths by 2050](#). If trends persist, the majority will represent historically marginalised groups, including people with disabilities as well as [women and youth](#), [LGBTQI individuals](#), [older people](#), [Indigenous](#), [Black and racially minoritised](#) communities.

As the world's fastest-growing minority, people with disabilities number [over 1.3 billion](#) and 80% live in the Global South, where they are [often the poorest in their communities](#) and particularly exposed to climate risks. In fact, [people with disabilities are up to four times more likely to die during natural disasters](#) than non-disabled peers. We can expect these numbers to rise, as an ageing population interacts with the impacts of climate change – such as extreme weather, pollution and climate-induced conflicts – to increase the incidence of illness, injury and displacement. In nations where life expectancy exceeds 70 years, [individuals spend an average of 8 years, or 11% of their life span, living with disabilities](#). Funders are, overwhelmingly, from these countries. This reality compels philanthropy to proactively embrace disability inclusion, recognising that it isn't about supporting a separate "disabled community" – it's a strategic investment that benefits everyone. But progress toward changing these realities is lagging and lacking. How should our approaches and funding reflect these facts? What levers might support funders' progress toward changing these realities?

A growing [body of evidence](#) documents the disproportionate impacts facing people with disabilities in the climate crisis. Existing research was largely corroborated by consultations to inform this guide, which surfaced seven themes:



1. Health Disparities



2. Loss of Income & Food Insecurity



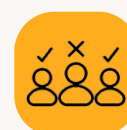
3. Increased Violence



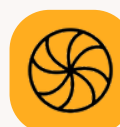
4. Inaccessibility



5. Displacement & Isolation



6. Exclusion



7. Intersectional Impacts



Health Disparities: Risks associated with increased pollution, ambient temperatures and weather extremities threaten community health – especially the wellbeing of people with disabilities.

Climate-related disasters exacerbate existing barriers to accessing healthcare due to the pervasive inaccessibility of information, early warning systems, transportation and evacuation planning, as well as other forms of institutional and social discrimination. Changing weather patterns can also increase the health risks faced by people with disabilities. As one OPD explained, “Limited access to affordable sunscreen has led to [heightened skin cancer risk](#) - further intensified by rising UV exposure levels - for people with albinism in Africa, who are up to 1,000 times more likely to contract skin cancer compared to their melanated peers.”

Furthermore, the stress, trauma, and uncertainty associated with the climate crisis can lead to anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). “When crops are destroyed by droughts or floods, families have forced girls to marry early in exchange for food or livestock,” an NGO respondent noted, “which exacerbates their anxiety and emotional distress.” Pre-existing psychosocial disabilities [can triple the risk of death in extreme heat](#), as some medications affect thermoregulation.



Loss of Income & Food Insecurity: Since many people with disabilities live below the poverty line and work in agriculture, they are especially exposed to the economic shocks of climate change.

Climate-related disasters often destroy homes, agricultural livelihoods and assistive devices. As an OPD shared, “Many persons with disabilities live in poverty, and climate change worsens this. Loss of crops and livestock due to extreme weather can lead to food insecurity and financial instability.”



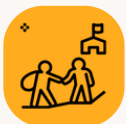
Increased Violence: [Gender-based violence risks often escalate during crises](#) due to factors such as shifting family roles, increased stress, support system breakdowns, social isolation and lost income.

Even without experiencing climate harm, [women with disabilities are up to ten times more likely to experience sexual violence](#) than non-disabled women. Similarly, [the risk of violence facing children with disabilities is nearly double](#) that of their peers. The realities are especially alarming for young women with disabilities, with data suggesting that [40-68% will experience sexual violence](#) before turning 18. According to one respondent, “Extreme weather patterns can put women and girls, especially those with disabilities, in more vulnerable positions. Following disasters, dwindling financial prospects and the threat of unemployment cause stress and contribute to the rise in violence, particularly in agricultural settings.”



Inaccessibility: In many countries, emergency alerts and [early warning systems are absent](#), and often inaccessible if they are in place. This hinders preparedness and informed decision-making in climate crises.

Physical infrastructure such as shelters, evacuation points or distribution centres are rarely designed with accessibility in mind. This makes it difficult for people with disabilities to evacuate or access services in climate disasters, leading to further isolation, injury, and even death. When the UN asked, 56% of people with disabilities said they're not aware of or don't have access to disaster risk information, and just [1 in 5 reported they could evacuate](#) during a crisis. As one OPD observed, "Information about climate change and emergency responses is often not available in accessible formats, such as braille or sign language, making it difficult for us to stay informed and take necessary precautions."



Displacement & Isolation: In climate disasters, [human rights-based support and care systems are critical](#), especially for the millions of people with disabilities [experiencing forced displacement](#) around the world.

Once it occurs they may lose access to support networks, assistive devices and accessible infrastructure, contributing to the [heightened risk of institutionalisation in disasters](#). "Climate disasters often displace families, caregivers, and community support systems," a respondent noted. "In Malawi, where family and community networks are primary support structures, this displacement severely impacts the support that many depend on. In refugee or internally displaced person (IDP) camps, our needs are often overlooked, leading to increased isolation and lack of services."



Exclusion: Climate policies, disaster strategies and humanitarian efforts often lack provisions for people with disabilities. For example, a 2022 study found that [only 37 of 192 state parties](#) to the Paris Agreement referred to disability in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). As a respondent observed, "Carbon reduction policies that overlook us can have a negative impact [...] on the disability community, perpetuating exclusion and lack of understanding." According to a UN survey of people with disabilities, only [10% reported that their government has emergency, disaster management or risk reduction](#) plans that take their experiences into account. Since people with disabilities are so frequently left out, they're unable to advocate for their needs, contribute their valuable perspectives, and shape solutions.



Intersectional Impacts: Across these themes, barriers are elevated in the climate crisis for people with disabilities who also belong to other marginalised groups – e.g. women, LGBTQI individuals, youth, older people, Indigenous, Black and racially minoritised communities – as well as underrepresented disabilities such as albinism, DeafBlindness, intellectual disability or psychosocial disability.

Respondents noted many ways in which intersectional discrimination affects them amidst escalating climate risks, including:

- “ Rural people with psychosocial disabilities, women and youth with disabilities are still the most marginalised, still left out in almost all agendas [and] among the most affected by climate change.
- “ Inaccessible infrastructure due to flooding can hinder access to healthcare services for expectant mothers with disabilities, putting their health and well-being at risk.
- “ For LGBTQI people with disabilities in the Pacific, the impacts of climate change hit us differently. This needs to be shared and support must be given so we are not left out.
- “ People with epilepsy face discrimination in communities and as a result, most climate change actors do not include them in their programming so we miss out on actions and responses in times of disaster.

None of these impacts are random – they’re symptoms of systemic inequality and discrimination. Therefore, solutions will require an [intersectional, justice orientation](#) that prioritises equity and the full participation of people with disabilities and other marginalised groups in all aspects of climate action. Similarly, climate funders are being called upon to [put justice at the forefront of all their efforts](#); to consider the inequalities that are deepened by climate change and prioritise those most affected.

People with disabilities are taking action (refer to [Case Studies](#)). Still, as one NGO noted, “Despite growing global attention to climate issues, the disability community remains marginalised and excluded from funding for mitigation and adaptation efforts.”



The growing leadership of women with disabilities in Malawi is changing the conversation on inclusion.

Photo:
Rucha Chitnis

The Response



These findings reaffirm the evidence that people with disabilities are more likely to be harmed by climate impacts, and to be overlooked in climate action. This necessitates a robust response from philanthropy to promote inclusive climate action. As an OPD noted, “Funders play a vital role in enabling our work – without their support it is almost impossible to implement activities like engaging relevant stakeholders or attending conferences where climate issues are discussed. In other words, funders enable opportunities for making things happen.”

The response has been mixed. COP29 ended with [a pledge to triple climate finance](#) (to \$300 billion per year by 2035). However, public finance commitments have been [heavily criticised](#) as not only “too little, too late,” but also [exacerbating inequities](#) and encouraging trends like debt financing, reductions in [development assistance](#) and inattention to [Loss and Damage](#). The vast majority [still goes towards mitigation](#), and the public finance gap for adaptation is [hundreds of billions per year](#) despite initiatives like the [Glasgow Climate Pact](#). Philanthropy’s response to the climate crisis has been similarly heavy on mitigation, light on justice and inadequate overall – representing [less than 2% of giving](#).

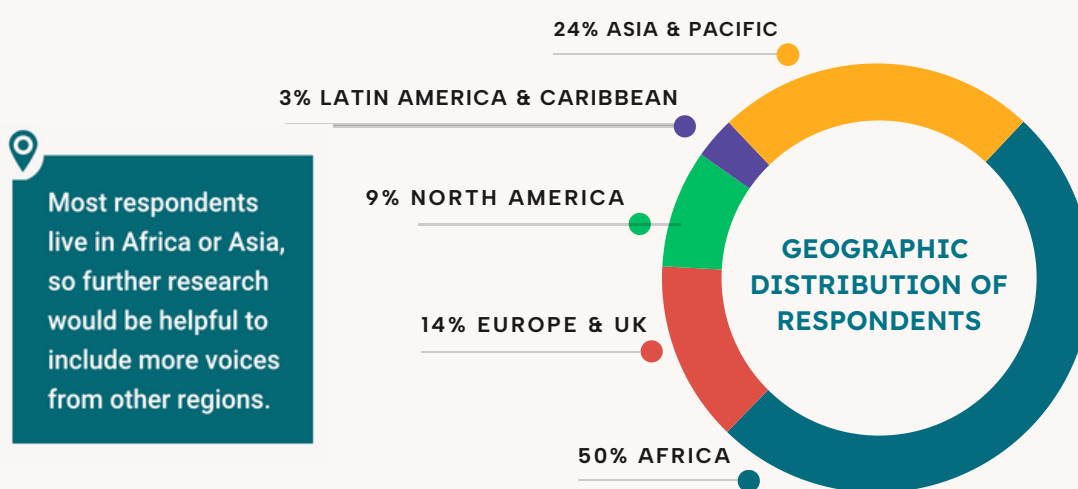
Following a similar trajectory, funding for disability has increased in recent years but is [only 4% of philanthropic giving](#), with the majority supporting medicalised models misaligned with movement priorities. For instance, in the US – where 1 in 4 adults have disabilities – only [one cent out of every \\$10 grantmaking dollars](#) is directed to promoting systemic change in alignment with the social model.

Where these trends meet at the intersection of climate and disability justice, funding is especially scarce. Very few climate funders consider disability, [with only 1% of grantmaking for the environment reportedly disability-inclusive](#). Similarly, disability funders have been slow to integrate climate. These tendencies mirror the inattention to intersectionality overall, as [78% of human rights grants focus on one issue and one population](#), with disability and LGBTQI rights being the most siloed. The growing interest in this work has not been met by resources for philanthropy. This guide – and the participatory research behind it – aims to start filling that gap.

Obstacles & Opportunities



To understand the obstacles and opportunities for funding disability-inclusive climate justice, the insights of OPDs, I/NGOs, academics and funders were elicited through an online survey (with over 200 responses, as well as focus group discussions (with Global South OPDs), and structured interviews (with funders, I/NGOs and academics).

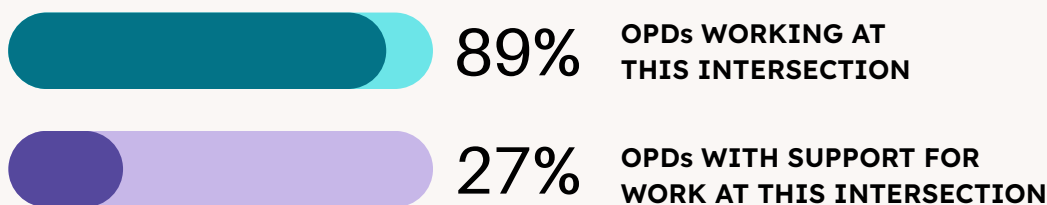


OPDs & I/NGOs



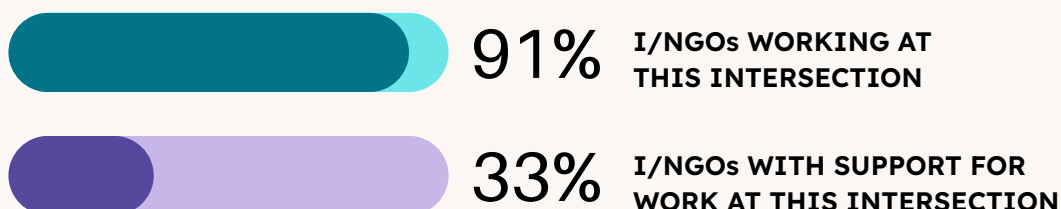
Civil society respondents detailed the many challenges limiting inclusive climate justice efforts, and offered recommendations for funders based on their experiences. The overwhelming majority (90%) of respondents from both groups indicated they are already working at this intersection, but only 30% of that collective work is funded.

Of the OPDs not doing climate work (11% of respondents), 100% cited lack of funding or lack of knowledge and capacity as the main reasons. Only 27% of the OPDs working at this intersection have funding to support those efforts. This mismatch between community priorities and available resources may indicate an unsustainable trend of unpaid work to advance climate solutions.



Overall, I/NGO respondents (including academics) shared a common understanding with OPDs regarding the challenges faced by people with disabilities in the climate crisis. They emphasised increased health and economic risks; inaccessible evacuation protocols, emergency services and communications; inadequate social protection for resilience; exclusion from planning and decision-making; and lack of access to climate information.

Only 9% of I/NGO respondents had yet to consider disability in their climate work, and the vast majority (95%) of those cited lack of funding or lack of knowledge and capacity as the reasons. Just one NGO indicated: “We don’t have interest in disability-inclusive climate justice, or it’s not a part of our mandate.” Of the I/NGOs doing this work, only 33% had secured funding for it.



This reflects a significant funding shortfall for environmental organisations integrating disability – similar to the gap reported by OPDs engaging in climate work. Both groups reported numerous barriers limiting their engagement in disability-inclusive climate justice efforts.



These are the top ten:

1. Money is tight: All emphasised the difficulty securing funding for inclusive climate work, due to the high competition for limited resources. If secured, grants are usually project-based which limits long-term planning. According to one respondent, “When calls are made, there is usually no room for organisations that are new in the intervention which limits most OPDs from accessing the funds. When they become part of a consortium, they are usually marginalised to the extent of just being considered for 5% of such a budget.”

2. Collaboration is missing: Both groups recognised the need for more meaningful partnerships between OPDs and environmental I/NGOs to foster knowledge exchange, joint initiatives and unified advocacy. As an OPD emphasised, “Climate change is huge, the impacts are real! Information sharing and collaborations should be encouraged.”

3. Capacity is lacking: Largely due to educational disparities and other systemic barriers, OPDs often lack expertise on climate. To access technical assistance and build capacity they require funding, but many grant opportunities require existing capacity. Similarly, I/NGOs often lack capacity on disability inclusion and accessibility. One environmental organisation indicated apprehension about engaging with OPDs, because “we don’t know what to call them.”

4. Opportunities are inaccessible: Grant application platforms and requirements are rarely designed with accessibility or inclusion in mind, favouring large organisations and hindering grassroots participation. As an OPD elaborated, “Funder requirements are heavy to fulfill. There are many small organisations of women with disabilities who never access any funding just because they lack [previous grants], yet they can successfully implement programmes.”

5. Research is needed: Disaggregated data remain scarce at this intersection, as people with disabilities are often grouped with “vulnerable populations” category. This perpetuates exclusion from climate action while hindering evidence-based advocacy and cross-movement collaboration. According to one OPD, “Data related to climate, gender, disability and Indigeneity are still very limited, so funding is needed for OPDs to carry out research in this area.”

6. Priorities are many: Community concerns such as economic justice, health and education often overshadow climate advocacy for OPDs – and inclusion for I/NGOs – making it difficult for both groups to mobilise in a framework of disability-inclusive climate justice. As an OPD noted, “The immediate effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, disrupt activities and create urgent needs that divert attention from long term goals.”



7. Stigma persists: Many funders and environmental organisations still consider disability through the medical model, viewing OPDs as beneficiaries rather than partners. “Negative attitudes affect consideration of people with disabilities as decision makers in disaster situations such as mudslides, floods and storms,” a respondent observed.

8. Policies exclude: Existing frameworks often fail to address the situations of people with disabilities in the climate crisis context, making advocacy challenging. One NGO noted the importance of “advocating for the government to involve people with disabilities in climate-resilient development planning.”

9. Intersectionality requires capacity: Few respondents felt equipped to apply an intersectional approach to climate that addresses the interaction of disability with other identities. As a respondent emphasised, “The intersections of climate change, gender, disability, and also Indigeneity need to be raised more often.”

10. Still left out: Both groups agreed that people with disabilities are often overlooked or excluded in climate discussions and actions. For instance, according to an OPD, “Deaf people affected by climate change continue to be excluded from key forums and processes that either input into climate action or make decisions on the affected populations.”

These barriers highlight the many challenges faced by OPDs and I/NGOs engaging in disability-inclusive climate justice, while emphasising the need for increased collaboration and support from funders. Addressing these obstacles together is crucial to ensure that climate action is equitable and effective.



Indigenous women with disabilities in Nepal are advocating for their right to self-determination with a disability lens.

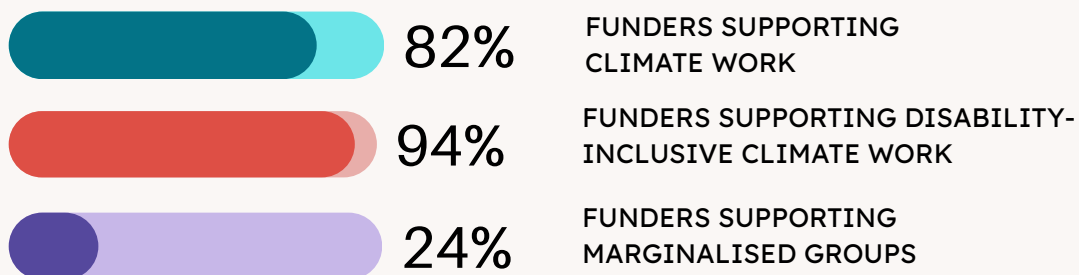
Photo:
Rucha Chitnis

Funders



While funder engagement in this research remained low despite a significant outreach effort, those who did participate provided a wealth of information on the barriers and opportunities at this intersection. They mostly represent foundations (50%) and funding intermediaries or hybrids (34%), and all are Global North-based. As an OPD pointed out in validating this guide, further research is needed to learn from funders in the Global South.

Most respondents fund climate action and nearly all support other groups – especially women (78%), Indigenous peoples (72%) and youth (67%) – to engage in that work. However, only 24% have funded disability-inclusive climate efforts.



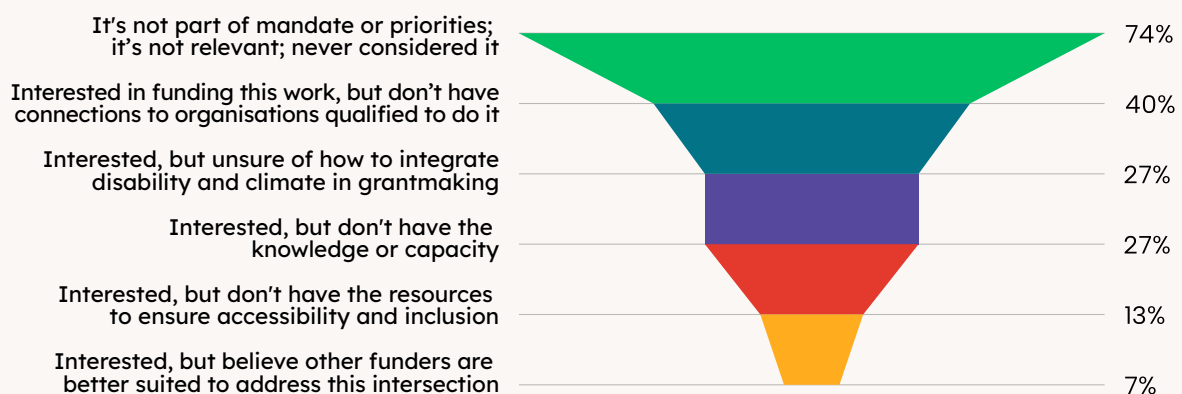
When asked why philanthropic investment is so low at this intersection, funders emphasised the following barriers.



“It’s not part of our mandate or priorities.”

Funders reported a growing focus on marginalised communities, recognising that solutions to climate harm should come from those most affected. But most do not consider disability as part of that work. This is not uncommon – disability is often overlooked in support of underrepresented groups, even though people with disabilities make up at least 16% of every community. This trend is reflected in 74% of funder responses, when asked why they don’t include disability in their climate work. One funder shared that, while they champion the leadership of marginalised groups (with a focus on women, youth and Indigenous communities), “without this prompt, disability could have slipped out of the strategy as an oversight.”

BARRIERS TO FUNDING DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE CLIMATE JUSTICE





“We are quite rubbish at this.”

Funders expressed a range of anxieties and assumptions around disability. They are overwhelmed by their inattention to it. They want to avoid making mistakes, appearing tokenistic, or failing to meet the expectations of the disability community. This angst leads to inaction, or reliance on existing structures and practices that may not be inclusive or accessible.

“There’s nothing there to fund.”

One of the primary obstacles identified by climate funders is a perceived dearth of OPDs that are “fundable,” and a lack of connections to technically experienced organisations operating in this space. For example, one respondent indicated that OPDs need climate risk assessments if they want to attract support from climate funders – otherwise, “there’s nothing there to fund.” Since chronically under-resourced OPDs are rarely able to undertake such processes without resources, the cycle continues. One respondent posed the question to fellow philanthropists: “If organisations don’t have capacity or funding...how will they get experience?”

“We are all stuck in silos.”

Disability is frequently perceived by funders as a niche issue, rather than an integral part of intersectional justice movements such as those supported by research respondents. Many marginalised groups – such as women, youth, Black and racially minoritised communities – are more integrated into philanthropies, with their inclusion considered a “cross-cutting” priority across themes and geographies. In the rare cases that disability is a focus for a climate funder, it is often relegated to a separate programme. Meanwhile, funders that prioritise disability rarely link it to climate. Funder approaches seem to mimic the silos between OPDs and other I/NGOs, perpetuating exclusion from justice agendas and hindering collective progress.

“Value for money is reductionist.”

Respondents acknowledged that most climate funding goes to large, well-established organisations – often considered less “risky” in maximising return on investment, but commonly missing the most marginalised – rather than to grassroots groups, justice movements and frontline communities. This reaffirms feedback from OPDs and I/NGOs that the current funding landscape is not effectively addressing the experiences of those most affected by the climate crisis.

“The onus is put on disability groups.”

Funders observed that the environmental I/NGOs they support often lack the capacity to meaningfully integrate disability. Because funders rarely prioritise disability, their grantees often expect OPDs and others to fill the gap rather than investing in internal capacities to become more inclusive. In the many places where medicalised models still prevail, civil society often needs basic information about disability that is not always easy to access – and is made more elusive by language and other contextual barriers. Still, the appetite is there to learn and engage. One funder reported that 400 grantees attended an informal “Disability 101” session during pandemic office hours.

“Can we keep it up?”

While many respondents are aware of the importance of disability inclusion, they have yet to implement strategies or allocate dedicated resources. The perceived time and effort required to mainstream climate justice and disability inclusion into existing mandates can be overwhelming for already overburdened teams. Specifically, funders reported frustration with the urgency of the climate crisis and with the post-COVID era, as staff are being pulled in many directions. One respondent noted that their progress made during the pandemic (including the hire of an accessibility coordinator for virtual events) had largely rolled back under pressure from other demands.

This feedback underscores the many barriers that funders experience in supporting disability-inclusive climate justice. While most respondents expressed interest in this area, many perceive disability as a separate issue unrelated to their priorities, and lack the confidence, resources or staff capacity to effectively integrate disability and climate. But they also recognised that these obstacles are not insurmountable, and many strategies exist to overcome them.



Women with psychosocial disabilities in Rwanda are destigmatizing mental health and creating safe community spaces.

Photo:
Rucha Chitnis



Opportunities



Successful disability-inclusive collaborations exist and can serve as models for funding intersectional advocacy, including for climate justice. The following case study illuminates one such example, and others can be found in the [Appendices](#).

ONE FUNDER'S EVOLUTION

The Ford Foundation's journey to becoming a disability inclusive funder has been a multi-faceted and evolving process, marked by both [significant strides](#) and [ongoing learning](#). It began in 2015 when FordForward was launched, with a focus on disrupting inequality but without mentioning disability. The community reacted, and [the Foundation responded](#). Thanks to evaluations led by consultants with lived experience, it soon became clear that a comprehensive approach was needed toward embedding disability inclusion across grantmaking and internal operations. There was a growing acknowledgement that disability rights are linked to broader social justice movements; that true inclusion requires addressing systemic barriers and challenging ableism in all its forms.

The Foundation started applying a "disability lens" in all its grantmaking, ensuring that the expertise and experiences of people with disabilities are considered across various social justice initiatives. As part of this effort, many of the foundation's grantees with a longtime focus on environmental justice – such as [Protection International](#) and [Global Greengrants Fund](#) – are being supported on their own disability inclusion journeys. Others – including the [Disability & Philanthropy Forum](#) and the [Disability Rights Fund](#) – are using Ford funding to apply intersectional approaches to their thematic priorities, including climate action.

A key turning point was the launch of Ford's first-ever US Disability Rights programme. Created with input from disability leaders, it focusses on advancing economic justice, building a pipeline of diverse leadership, and strengthening OPDs. While the people behind it will tell you that Ford's journey is far from over, it offers [many lessons for other funders](#) working to become more inclusive, equitable and effective. As Catherine Townsend at Ford noted, "Both donors and grantees need non-technical knowledge resources to understand how and why people with disabilities are both disproportionately affected by climate disasters and yet excluded from policy and budgeting for climate resilience. Learning and networking are key to building a climate justice agenda that is disability-inclusive."

Resources: Disability Inclusion [Toolkit](#) | Inclusive Grantmaking [Guidance & Case Studies](#) | How Funders Can [Make Disability Visible](#) | Intersectionality [& Disability](#) | The Unknown Ally in the [Fight for Environmental Justice](#)



To help funders better support disability-inclusive climate justice, OPDs and I/NGOs shared numerous recommendations.

Here are the most frequently cited, accompanied by relevant examples:


1. Make your funding equitable, flexible and sustainable: Conduct outreach, specify that OPDs are encouraged to apply, and establish funding targets. Embrace [participatory methods](#) so your decision-making is driven by lived expertise. Ensure your [application process is inclusive](#), considering disability accessibility as well as digital and linguistic divides. Reduce the administrative burden and [ease requirements](#) to encourage applications from grassroots groups. Example: Funders adopting [trust-based philanthropy practices](#) – and providing support “beyond the check” – for movement strength and efficacy.

2. Facilitate collaboration and networking: Foster alliances between OPDs and environmental organisations by funding joint initiatives. Create platforms and opportunities for networking and knowledge-sharing between these groups. Example: A collaboration to promote [food sovereignty for people with disabilities in Indonesia](#).

3. Prioritise data collection and analysis: Support [research on the intersection](#) of climate change and disability, including by OPDs to generate data that reflects their communities. Examples: “[Climate Change & Persons With Disabilities in the ASEAN: A Review of Policy Gaps](#)” and [Disability and Climate Change in the Pacific: Findings from Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu](#).

4. Promote participation: Champion the leadership of people with disabilities and fund advocacy initiatives to ensure policies are disability inclusive. Support OPDs’ meaningful participation in climate decision-making and advocacy spaces. Example: Advocating for movement priorities – including [official UNFCCC recognition of a global disability constituency](#) – at COP29.

5. Fund movement work, and mutual aid: [In addition to organising](#) for rights and inclusion in climate justice efforts and decision-making, OPDs want funders’ support as they advocate for – and, in many cases, provide for – [equitable and accessible humanitarian responses](#) to climate-driven disasters. Examples: OPDs can ensure [inclusive distribution](#) of [unconditional cash transfers](#), produce resources like a “[Disability Inclusive Disaster Get Ready Guidebook](#)” in Nepal, and provide assistive devices through partnerships like [this one with CBM in Kenya](#)).



6. Build institutional capacity: Invest in training for OPDs and I/NGOs to strengthen their sustainability by developing skills in areas such as strategy and safeguarding, [research and climate advocacy](#). Recognise that there is deep expertise embedded in the disability movement for inclusion, and fund OPDs to train environmental NGOs and duty-bearers in areas like accessibility and inclusion. Example: OPD-led capacity-building for [inclusive climate adaptation and mitigation in Nigeria](#).


7. Support intersectionality: Many approaches to supporting other marginalised groups can be applied to disability-inclusive climate justice. Fund OPDs and I/NGOs to address the interactions of disability with other identities, such as race and gender. Specific funding for women and girls with disabilities is especially critical due to their heightened risks in climate crises. Example: A [feminist coalition in Mongolia](#) – including Indigenous women with disabilities – advancing common goals such as resisting extractivism and establishing women-led livelihood initiatives.

Funder respondents also shared many ideas toward integrating disability-inclusive climate justice into their work. They can find and fund organisations working at this intersection by participating in events and communities of practice, partnering with movement-focused intermediary grantmakers, and conducting intentional outreach. Collaborating with other funders and sharing best practices will further enhance their capacity and effectiveness. Creating and disseminating resources on disability-inclusive climate action, which feature relevant organisations, can also raise awareness and facilitate connections.

Many acknowledged that [philanthropies should confront ableism](#), invest in staff training on inclusive climate justice, and [hire more people with disabilities](#). Developing clear strategies and allocating resources to support this work will help, too. Getting started can be as simple as adapting what’s already working in other areas.

For instance, corporate foundations could resource disability-focused Employee Resource Groups to conduct outreach and recommend relevant grants. One respondent observed that integrating funding targets [across thematic and regional portfolios](#) can also help ensure access for specific marginalised groups, including OPDs, and another emphasised: “If you can’t give to [grassroots groups], give through [grassroots regranters].”

In recognising the inaccessibility of most grant systems – sometimes due to complex eligibility criteria and reporting requirements, and oftentimes due to the inaccessibility of donor platforms – most funders agreed they can [improve in this area](#).



They can make their funding more equitable and effective by reducing the paperwork burden, offering applications in multiple formats and languages, and supporting technical assistance to build capacities of grassroots organisations interested in doing this work. Overall, funders should consider what requirements are absolutely necessary and how the grant process can be more welcoming. This will not only help people with disabilities, but other marginalised groups, as well.

Given the many obstacles faced by marginalised groups, most agreed that [trust-based approaches](#) – providing flexible, multi-year, unrestricted funding – are crucial for grassroots organisations to address the climate crisis as it develops. Many respondents expressed interest in [participatory grantmaking](#) to ensure strategies and decisions are informed and led by affected communities, and noted that an [intersectional lens](#) further strengthens their grantmaking. Funders indicated that research, networking and capacity-building would be most helpful to assist them in these efforts.



Grace Jerry & Inclusive Friends Association contributed to an analysis of narrative change to promote disability inclusion in climate action in the Niger Delta.

Photo:
Rucha Chitnis

Checklist



Bringing it all together – to support disability-inclusive climate justice, funders can commit to these “I”s:

- ✓ **Internalise** inclusion and accessibility within your staffing, communications and organisational practices.
- ✓ **Integrate** intersectionality, intentionally. Dismantle the silos, prioritising disability and climate as “cross-cutting.” Fund cross-movement collaboration, including underrepresented groups.
- ✓ **Invest** in Global Majority movements substantially, sustainably, and flexibly – in line with trust-based philanthropy.
- ✓ **Improve** your grantmaking to ensure accessibility – across application guidelines, reporting requirements, and communication channels – and a user-friendly process for all.
- ✓ **Implement** existing strategies to foster collaboration between OPDs and environmental organisations. Twin track your approach by providing direct funding to OPDs working on climate justice, and to environmental organisations working on disability justice.
- ✓ **Involve** your organisation in relevant communities of practice. Influence other funders and movements to join this effort. We are better together!
- ✓ **Inform** your strategies by learning from OPDs and inclusive environmental organisations, ensuring funding addresses key priorities. Iterate, evaluate, repeat.

Start small, but start somewhere! We are committed to helping funders better support disability-inclusive climate justice.

Please [submit this short form](#) and we'll help.

Conclusion



This research has illuminated the critical intersection of disability rights and climate justice, highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on people with disabilities who are also advancing climate solutions. The findings make clear the urgent need for inclusive climate action, and for increased funding to support it.

The insights from OPDs, I/NGOs and funders have provided a roadmap for change, emphasizing the importance of twin track approaches, flexible funding, capacity building, collaboration and accessibility.

By implementing the recommendations outlined in this guide, funders can play a transformative role in fostering a more equitable and sustainable future. It is through collaborative efforts, informed by the experiences and expertise of people with disabilities, that we can create a world where everyone can thrive and contribute to climate solutions. It's not too late to build a more sustainable and inclusive future for all. This journey is long, but we're all on it together.

Start small, but start somewhere! We are committed to helping funders better support disability-inclusive climate justice.

Please [submit this short form](#) and we'll help.



The dance team of the National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN) embodies disability pride and joy.

**Photo Courtesy:
NIDWAN**

Appendices

Case Studies

The triple nexus. In Uganda, [Integrated Disabled Women Activities](#) (IDIWA) leveraged their funding partnership with the Disability Rights Fund (DRF) to secure support from the [Women's Environment and Development Organization](#) (WEDO). As a result of DRF's engagement in the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Climate Justice (SRHR & CJ) [Coalition](#), WEDO now works regularly with DRF to connect with OPDs active at the intersection of gender, disability and climate through the Gender Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund. This demonstrates a successful strategy that other donors can adopt to find and connect with relevant OPDs. As Tara Daniel explained, "WEDO has recognized that working directly with OPDs is one of the best ways to uncover the already existing work happening that interweaves climate justice, gender justice, and disability rights, and building from these foundations and working collaboratively can amplify impact."

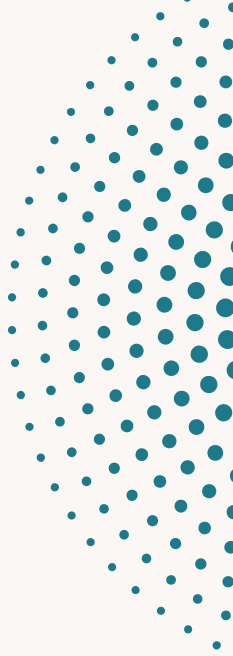
With DRF funding last year, IDIWA conducted district-wide consultations with people with disabilities in Kaliro District. The findings led to the development of a triple nexus approach, recognising the intersections between disability, gender-based violence and climate change. This showed how climate harm and gender-based violence have specific and often disproportionate impacts on women and girls with disabilities. It also emphasises that women and girls with disabilities not only face distinct risks, but also have capacities to act as agents of change on climate justice and mitigation of gender-based violence. These efforts resulted in the passage of Uganda's first district policy on Disability-Inclusive Gender Based Violence (GBV) Services and Climate Justice (in Kaliro District).

IDIWA's DRF funding enabled eligibility for the Gender Just Climate Solutions Scale Fund. With support from WEDO through the GJCS Scale Fund in 2024, IDIWA promoted [disability-inclusive, gender-just climate solutions through storytelling](#), while advocating for the effective implementation of the Kaliro District Policy to ensure it upholds the rights of people with disabilities – particularly women and girls who have survived GBV and are affected by climate change. These efforts are also advancing the integration of disability inclusion and gender equality into existing initiatives related to environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction.

Moving with the movement. The [Abilis Foundation](#) is a Finnish OPD-funder hybrid responding to the priorities of Global South disability movements, which are increasingly considering climate in areas such as sustainable livelihoods and inclusive DRR advocacy. Their programme focus on [Livelihoods and Environment](#) addresses the realities faced by people with disabilities in Global South countries, who often live in poverty without educational or professional opportunities, and are economically reliant on their families due to stigma and lack of social security. The programme also recognises that the livelihoods of many people with disabilities, particularly in agriculture and animal husbandry, are especially exposed to the negative impacts of climate change, such as droughts and floods.

Especially in Asia, [OPDs are using Abilis funding](#) to ensure that people with disabilities are included in DRR efforts associated with climate-related crises, such as Typhoon Yagi in Vietnam. All funded projects incorporate sustainable resource use and environmental care, and training on these topics is provided in participating countries. Also, as part of their intersectionality efforts, Abilis prioritises projects that have been initiated, planned, and implemented by organisations of women with disabilities and/or groups working in remote areas. It has taken time to build internal and grantee capacities on intersectionality, and the same will be true of climate justice as an emerging movement priority.

“As a funder/OPD,” Lena Seppinen of Abilis shared, “we are still at the beginning of the process of strengthening climate justice integration in our work. One thing that has felt helpful is collaborating with an organisation working on environment/climate. They learn about disability inclusion from us; we learn about climate and biodiversity from them. In the process, we even develop new insights into the intersection of disability and environmental protection.” Abilis aims to support similar efforts by OPDs to build partnerships with local environmental organisations. Lena also noted that grassroots OPDs might be hesitant to apply for climate-related funding, “because they assume they have to already be experts in the area. But in fact, training and capacity building could be the project focus!”



It's about Ubuntu. The Africa Albinism Network (AAN) is [leading a campaign](#) to ensure that people with albinism in Africa - many of whom will lose their lives to skin cancer - are able to access affordable sunscreen in the face of rising UV exposure and other climate change impacts. The collaboration behind this campaign began when AAN attended COP28 with Ford Foundation support, where they met staff of [CBM Global](#). AAN reflected that “This relationship, reinforced by Greengrants backing, paved the way for the campaign and the impactful initiatives we continue to champion.”

Together with CBM, [Fund for Global Human Rights](#) (the Fund) and [Climate Action Network](#) (CAN), AAN organised a [webinar](#) to rally support for a petition urging the World Health Organisation to re-add sunscreen to its Essential Medicines List. As Muhammed Saidykhan of CAN explained during that webinar, “In Africa we believe in Ubuntu: I am you, you are me – if you are affected, I’m affected. It is important to state that this is about allyship [...] That we’re all citizens of this world and everyone needs to take part in this dialogue.”

Marianne Mollmann of the Fund elaborated: “These issues affect all of us. In fact, when we advocate alongside people with albinism, we’re not addressing one issue. We’re tackling the web of oppression that includes ableism, racism, sexism, classism and so on [...] That’s why the Fund for Global Human Rights supports the power of disability rights activism, the power of activism for people with albinism as a core part of our work to strengthen the global movement for human rights.”

Beyond this campaign, CAN, CBM and the Fund have supported AAN in many other ways – amplifying their advocacy and that of the broader disability movement during COP29, facilitating connections, and advising on intersectionality. Embodying ubuntu, these partners are leading the way towards a more just and inclusive world – one where the rights of all, including people with albinism, are protected under the warming sun.

Additional Case Studies:

- A [successful legal action](#) advancing justice for Indigenous divers affected by Decompression Syndrome in the Moskitia region of Honduras, with support from Greengrants, Ford and others.
- A [climate change video](#) promoting awareness and action, by the UN Independent Expert on the Rights of Persons with Albinism.
- A series of case studies by the GLAD Network on funding to OPDs, including those [responding to humanitarian crises in Ukraine, Pakistan and Jordan](#).
- A partnership to develop the [Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction \(DiDRR\) e-Learning Course](#).
- A series of multilingual materials to [promote disability-inclusive climate justice](#) in Chile.
- An assessment of [Cyclone Freddy's impacts on people with disabilities in Malawi](#), revealing gaps in accessible infrastructure and assistive devices.
- A training for humanitarian actors in Haiti on [inclusive natural disaster responses](#).
- A toolkit for [Making Climate Advocacy Accessible For All](#).
- A video telling [untold stories of women with disabilities in climate change](#) in Rwanda.
- An analysis of [Narrative Change around Disability and Climate Change](#) in Niger Delta.
- A participatory funding collaborative to support [OPDs and disability activists leading the way on climate justice](#).



National Deaf Federation Nepal has created a 'Dictionary of Nepali Sign Language.'

Photo:
National Deaf Federation Nepal

Resources



In addition to those linked in the text, we recommend the following resources:

Climate Justice & Philanthropy

- [Beyond 2%: From Climate Philanthropy to Climate Justice Philanthropy \(EDGE\)](#)
- [Centering Equity and Justice in Climate Philanthropy \(Candid\)](#)
- [Climate Justice Map \(Climate Justice-Just Transition Donor Collaborative\)](#)
- [ClimatePhilanthropy2030 \(Alliance\)](#)
- [Climate + Philanthropy Learning Journey \(Active Philanthropy\)](#)
- [Data at the Intersections: Advancing Environmental and Climate Justice Using a Human Rights Lens \(Candid\)](#)
- [Funding The Un-Fundables \(Samdhana Institute\)](#)
- [How environmental issues affect all giving \(Environmental Funders Network\)](#)
- [Natural Resources & Climate Justice - International Strategy \(Ford Foundation\)](#)
- [Seeds of Harvest \(GAGGA, GGF, HRFN, Prospera\)](#)
- [Simple, Not Easy: Meaningful and lasting gender justice through learning and relationship building \(Global Greengrants Fund\)](#)

Disability-Inclusive Climate Justice & Funding

- [3 Steps Toward Disability-Inclusive Climate Action | GLAD Network](#)
- [A Stake in the Fight: An Activist's Take on Eco-Ableism \(Rooted in Rights\)](#)
- [Avenues for disability inclusion in climate and biodiversity action \(MFA of Finland\)](#)
- [Can COP27 contribute to disability-inclusive climate justice? \(Disability Debrief\)](#)
- [Climate Change, Environmental Activism, and Disability \(SSIR\)](#)
- [Climate Darwinism Makes Disabled People Expendable \(Forbes\)](#)
- [Connecting disability to the climate beat, with Áine Kelly-Costello \(Unbias the News\)](#)
- [Demanding Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction \(Disability Rights Fund\)](#)
- [Disability, Displacement, and Climate Action \(IDA, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center and UNHCR Special Advisor on Climate Action\)](#)
- [Disability Inclusion Fund \(Borealis Philanthropy\)](#)
- [Disability Inclusion in Climate Finance \(Climate Investment Funds\)](#)
- [Disability-inclusive climate adaptation \(Sensing Climate\)](#)
- [Disability Inclusive Climate Justice \(EDF & CBM\)](#)
- [Disability-inclusive DRR and humanitarian action: an urgent global imperative \(UN\)](#)
- [Disability Justice is Climate Justice \(Sins Invalid\)](#)
- [Disability Visibility Project - Climate](#)
- [Eco-Ableism Podcast](#)

- [Environmental injustice and disability: Where is the research? \(EHN\)](#)
- [Environmental Justice and Disability with Pauline Castres \(The Heumann Perspective\)](#)
- [Everyone's Environment: Older people and Disabled people \(Re-engage & Disability Rights UK\)](#)
- [Funding Fairer Futures \(CBM Ireland\)](#)
- [Global Disability Justice In Climate Disasters: Mobilizing People With Disabilities As Change Agents \(Health Affairs\)](#)
- [Global Impact of Climate Change on Persons with Albinism: A Human Rights Issue \(Journal of Climate Change and Health\)](#)
- [Include Disability in Planned Relocation Processes \(Human Rights Watch\)](#)
- [Inclusive early warning early action guide \(UNDRR\)](#)
- [It's Time to Recognize Climate Change as a Disability Rights Issue \(Rooted in Rights\)](#)
- [Joint efforts to deliver disability inclusive climate action \(UNPRPD Global Disability Fund\)](#)
- [Leave No One Behind - People with Disabilities and Older People in Climate-Related Disasters \(Human Rights Watch\)](#)
- [Misalignment or exclusion? Investigating climate and energy philanthropy funding of diversity](#)
- [Missing in Climate Action: Stories of persons with disabilities from the Global South | CBM Global](#)
- [Panel on the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change \(OHCHR\)](#)
- [Promoting Disability-Inclusive Climate Action through Litigation \(HPOD\)](#)
- [Realising disability rights through a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies \(ILO\)](#)
- [Report on Disability Inclusion in Climate Finance \(CIF\)](#)
- [Shaping better climate policy outcomes through OPD led research \(CBM Global\)](#)
- [Report on Disability Inclusion in National Climate Commitments and Policies \(Disability Inclusive Climate Action Research Program at McGill University, IDA\)](#)
- [To Survive Climate Catastrophe, Look to Queer and Disabled Folks \(Yes!\)](#)
- [US Disability Philanthropy Forum's Connections Between Climate Change and Disability](#)
- [Women with Psychosocial Disabilities - Intersecting Disasters and Climate Change \(The Mariwala Health Initiative Journal\)](#)



Collections

- [Climate Change and Disability Resource Guide \(Disability Debrief\)](#)
- [Climate News and Updates \(Harvard Law School Project on Disability\)](#)
- [Climate Resources \(International Disability Alliance\)](#)
- [Climate Crisis and Persons with Disabilities \(CBM Global\)](#)
- [Disability & Philanthropy Forum: Climate Change & Disability Resource Library](#)
- [Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Programme \(McGill University\)](#)
- [Persons with Disabilities and the Environment \(Global Greengrants Fund\)](#)
- [The impact of climate change on the rights of persons with disabilities \(OHCHR\)](#)

Communities of Practice

- [Climate Action Task Group \(International Disability and Development Consortium\)](#)
- [Disability & Philanthropy Forum: Peer Networks](#)
- [Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Working Group \(GLAD Network\)](#)
- [Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#)

Inclusion, Intersectionality & Accessibility

- [Accessible Filmmaking & Media Resources \(Disability Justice Project\)](#)
- [Disability Rights UK's Inclusion and Intersectionality Library](#)
- [Feminist Accessibility Protocol \(Women Enabled International\)](#)
- [Flagship Report on Disability and Development 2024 \(UN DESA\)](#)
- [Helping the Helpers Be More Inclusive: A 4 Part Series \(Knowbility\)](#)
- [Inclusion 101: The How-To of Inclusive and Accessible Communications \(DRF\)](#)
- [Inclusion Advisory Group \(CBM Global\)](#)
- [Inclusion Of Persons With Disabilities In Humanitarian Action \(IASC\)](#)
- [Information for all: European standards for making information easy to read and understand \(Inclusion Europe\)](#)
- [Meeting Accessibility Guide \(DRF\)](#)
- [Organizing inclusive events: useful tips and resources \(GLAD Network\)](#)
- [Strengthening Gender Inclusion in Disability Rights Spaces \(Women Enabled\)](#)

Accessibility Apps

- [accessiBe](#)
- [Bionic Reading](#)
- [Level Access](#)

Acknowledgement



We are grateful to everyone who shared insights, experiences and connections to inform this guide, including:

Abilis Foundation; Action et Développement des Handicapés au Congo; ADF; ADI ONG; Africa Albinism Network; Áine Kelly-Costello; Alhayat association for disabilities rehabilitation; ANASSEN; Ang May Kapansanang Bayani; Ansara Family Fund; ASEAN Disability Forum; ASODIFIMCO; Association des Sourds de Leveque Haiti; Association pour le Renforcement des Capacités des Personnes Handicapées au Mali; Atullya Foundation; Auckland Council Disability Advisory Panel; AWWDI; Barnwood Trust; Better Future for Generation; Billion Strong; Birungi Eco Initiative; Blue Cross; Burroughs Wellcome Fund; Cahaya Inklusi Indonesia Foundation; Calcutta Society for Professional Action in Development; Caring for Persons with Disabilities; CBM; CeFHA Trust; Center for Disaster Philanthropy; Centre for Citizens with Disabilities; Centre for Social Policy Development; Chekisaie Disabled Women group; Chemichemi Foundation, Kenya; Chisombezi Deafblind Centre; Children's Investment Fund Foundation; CIQAL; Climate Action Network; Coalition Nationale des Associations des Personnes Handicapées; Colectivo Vida Independiente; Comic Relief; Community Restoration Initiative Project; Confluence Philanthropy; Culture Centre of the Deaf; Dalia Association; Deaf Outreach Program; Difabel Blora Mustika; Disability HIV and AIDS Trust; Disability Justice Project; Disability Women Empowerment Association of Solomon Islands; Disabled society Janakpur; Disabled Women in Africa; Disabled Women in Development; EOCIL; Epilepsy Support Association Uganda; Equal Access Innovators; European Disability Forum; European Network on Independent Living; Fambauone Youth Organization; FESO (Femmes Solidaires); Fidakama; Fiji Association of the Deaf; Ford Foundation; Fund for Global Human Rights; Future Builders Foundation for Persons with Disabilities; Gerkatin; Girls Activist Youth Organization; Girls Empowerment Network for Development; GiveOut; Global Fund for Children; Global Greengrants Fund; Greater Whange Residents Trust; Groups Focused Consultations; Grupo Social ONCE; Gulu Women with Disabilities Union; Hearts for persons with Albinism; Hero Women Rising; Hoima Blind Women Association; Hope Alive for Possibilities Initiative; HUDIP; Humanity and Inclusion; Human rights of women and girls with disabilities in Malawi; Humanity and inclusion; HWDI Provinsi Bali; HWDI Sulawesi Selatan; ICA Burundi; Iclei Indonesia; ILO; IMHA; Integrated Disabled Women Activities-IDIWA; Interessenvertretung Selbstbestimmt Leben in Deutschland; International Disability Alliance; International Federation of World Peace Organizations; IPAS; Jeunesse Active pour l'Intégration et l'éducation; Joint Initiatives For Vulnerables Support; Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities; Kasungu Deafblind Initiative; Kenya National Deaf Woman Peace Network; Kilimanjaro Blind Trust Africa; Kiribati Deaf Association; KOSHISH Nepal; Light for the World; Lilian Dibo Foundation;



Loss and Damage Collaboration; LVCT Health Organisation; Lyakirema Initiative For Persons With Albinism; Meremeta Community Initiatives Organisation; Mimijane Foundation For Women And Children With Disabilities; Mindset Development Organisation; Mobility international USA; My Story Initiative; Mzuzu Disability Organization; National Federation of the Deaf Nepal; National Federation of the Disabled Nepal; National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal; Natural Resources Governance Network; Nepal Association of the Blind; Nepal Centre for Philanthropy and Development; Network of Women with Disabilities; Nick Powell; NONDO; NUDIPU; One More Percent; Organisations of People with Disability for Youth Network; Papua New Guinea Women In Disability Network; Partners Asia; Pelangi Disabilitas Yogyakarta; Perkumpulan Ohana; PETKI; Philippine National Federation Of Persons With Disabilities; Plateforme des Fédérations des Personnes Handicapées de Madagascar; PNGSLIA; PUSPADI Bali; RAWSA Alliance for Africa & Arab States; Reach A Voice Uganda; REARC Institute; RHOWI; Red de mujeres indigenas y afrodescendientes con discapacidad de ALC; Regional Advocacy for Women's Sustainable Advancement Alliance for African and Arab States; Réseau des Femmes Ouvrant pour le Developpement Rural; RIADIS y RED GIRDD-LAC; Robert Bosch Stiftung; Rwanda Organization of Persons with Physical Disabilities and Persons Using Wheelchairs; Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative; Rwanda Union of Little People; Rwanda Youth In Action Organisation; Sama Foundation; Santhivardhana Ministries; Sauri Growth Initiative for Women and Youth with Disabilities; Save the Children; SERAC; Siaya Muungano Network; Siemenpuu Foundation; SMRC; Social Development Program; Solidarité des Femmes Handicapées; Spinal Injuries Association of Malawi; Sudanese National Union for the Physically Disabled; TAF Africa Foundation; Taiwan Mad Alliance; Te Toa Matao; The Ability in Disability Association; This Ability Trust; Thousand Currents; Transmedia Catalonia; Triumph Mental Health Support; Uganda National Self-Advocacy Initiative; Umoja People With Disabilities; UNABU; University of Exeter; UUSC; VIPYA Disability Association; Voice of Women with Disability; WAKE UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS; Women Emancipation and Development Agency; Women's Environment and Development Organization; Women Safe House Sustenance Initiative; World Federation of the Deaf; YAPESDI; Yolanda Muñoz; Zaw Lin Htun.



Young people with disabilities in Uganda are advocating for their political participation and inclusive policy processes.

Photo:
Rucha Chitnis



IMPATIENCE
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