

MyRight

# **Global strategy 2022-2026**

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# Introduction

International development cooperation is an important tool in the promotion of human rights. The international development cooperation aims at making it possible for people living in poverty to improve their living conditions. Persons with disabilities are among the poorest of the poorest, no matter in which country we live. We are among those with the lowest level of education, highest level of unemployment and the least of financial resources. This is why our international development cooperation is important as a way of supporting and strengthening each other. Of this reason, MyRight's global strategy is an important document guiding the work in 2022-2026.

## 1. About MyRight

MyRight – the Swedish Disability Movement's organisation for international cooperation - was formed in 1981 when several disability organisations came together in a desire to coordinate their existing international work. Until 2012, the organisation was named SHIA - Swedish Handicap International Aid Foundation.

All member organisations are Swedish organisations of persons with disabilities. The joint individual membership is 266,000 members (in 2020). MyRight has a head office in Sweden and seven country offices located in Bolivia, Nicaragua, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Rwanda and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The foundation of MyRight's work is the cooperation between persons with disabilities and between organisations of persons with disabilities.

### 1.1. Vision

MyRight's vision is a world where all persons with disabilities enjoy equal rights and opportunities for self-determination, full participation and a dignified life free from poverty in inclusive societies.

### 1.2. Mission

MyRight's mission is to provide tools to organisations of persons with disabilities so that they can be developed and through their work promote persons with disabilities having power over their own lives, self-determination and full participation, as well as the capacity to claim their

human rights as set out in, among other sources, the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

MyRight accomplishes this by:

- supporting organisations of persons with disabilities and their activities through, among other things, project support in international cooperation with other organisations of persons with disabilities
- providing support to a democratic and transparent development of these organisations
- promoting an international exchange of experiences between persons with disabilities and their organisations of what it is like to live with disabilities
- working for the rights of persons with disabilities
- working from a general child and youth perspective
- working from a migrant perspective
- carrying out awareness-raising activities in matters concerning the rights of persons with disabilities
- provide support to, and participate in advocacy for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the global sustainability goals of Agenda 2030 to be implemented in Swedish international cooperation and on national level in MyRight's programme countries
- represent the disability movement in Sweden within Swedish international development cooperation

### **1.3. Values**

MyRight's work is based on six basic values:

#### **Human Rights**

A rights-based work is based on the individual's own needs and rights, including the right to self-determination and participation – as expressed in the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* – the notion that human rights are universal and concern every individual, and that states and their representatives can be held accountable.

#### **Empowerment**

Self-empowerment, the right to self-determination, full participation and independence enable persons with disabilities to make decisions about their own lives.

## **Democracy**

Solidarity, good governance and internal control promote commitment and the development of democratic and transparent organisations.

## **Inclusion**

Inclusion is a prerequisite for a participation characterised by diversity, with self-representation of persons with disabilities from all backgrounds in MyRight's processes and those of others.

## **Partnership**

Partnerships through cooperation with MyRight's member organisations, partner organisations and with others who share MyRight's vision, contribute to the effectiveness and legitimacy of MyRight's work.

## **Learning**

MyRight continuously draws lessons from its and others' experiences in order to make the work more efficient and effective and to promote the development of innovative solutions to achieve better results.

## **1.4. Guiding Principles**

### **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

The Convention is designed to clarify that persons with disabilities have the right to live an independent life with self-determination and full participation and to be able to participate in society on equal terms.

Among other things, the Convention establishes three fundamental rights that the disability movements in MyRight's programme countries regularly raise as crucial: the right to education, livelihood and health.

### **Agenda 2030**

The 17 global sustainability goals of Agenda 2030 link, both directly and indirectly, to persons with disabilities. One of the agenda's key points is "No one left behind", which is a principle that MyRight's work is dedicated to promoting not least in advocacy versus other organisations – state and non-state.

The goals that are primarily linked to MyRight's work:

Goal 1: No poverty

Goal 3: Good health and well-being

Goal 4: Quality education

Goal 5: Gender equality

Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth

Goal 10: Reduced inequality

Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

### **Gender Equality**

Men and women with disabilities are not automatically subjected to the same discriminatory structures. Women and girls with disabilities often experience double discrimination, marginalization and vulnerability. Women and girls with disabilities usually end up in a more serious dependency position than men and boys with disabilities. This is due to norms and attitudes about both gender and disability. Women as family members are expected to care for family members with disabilities, which often lead to lost work income and a heavier burden to support their family.

Girls with disabilities have even less access to education than boys with disabilities, even though only one out of ten children with disabilities in developing countries are in school.

MyRight's work is to promote the participation of women and girls as well as gender equality. This is done by integrating a gender perspective into planning, implementation and follow-up of the work, and through special efforts to increase the participation of women and girls and the benefit of women and girls from project results.

### **Environment and climate**

The impact on people and the environment of climate change is considerable. Climate change disproportionately affects the most vulnerable countries and groups. Due to the fact that persons with disabilities are over-represented in particularly vulnerable contexts and are regarded as a particularly vulnerable group, the vulnerability to increased climate change is particularly devastating.

MyRight have a responsibility to conduct its work in such a way that which to the least possible extent have a negative impact on the environment and the climate.

Gender equality and environment/climate are thematic areas which often, together with conflict/conflict sensitivity, are seen as cross-cutting issues. These are often referred to by Sida and MyRight as well as other organisations are required to show in which ways these perspectives have an impact on the work.

## **1.5. Theory of change and working methods**

MyRight's work is organized on the basis of MyRight's theory of change, the theory of how persons with disabilities can go from exclusion to inclusion in society, that is to achieve equal rights and opportunities as everyone else to a dignified life free from poverty in inclusive societies

The theory of change consists of three steps which MyRight deems important for a person with a disability to be given the opportunity to be included in society.

### **Increased self-empowerment**

Persons with disabilities who have the opportunity to influence their own lives, exercise their self-determination and full participation and are aware of their rights, can better participate in society and organise together with others.

### **Strong and capable organisations of persons with disabilities**

Through strong, competent and legitimate organisations of persons with disabilities, the individual members have better opportunities to jointly promote their rights and to work for better living conditions for themselves and others.

### **Increased participation in society development**

With increased access to relevant instruments and processes, the opportunities increase for disability organisations to make an impact on society. Examples of such instruments are international regulations and policies such as the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and the Global Sustainability Goals in *Agenda 2030* as well as national legislation and policies.

## **MyRight's work in relation to the theory of change**

At all levels, when it comes to work in relation to MyRight's theory of change, MyRight's member organisations play a significant role. In their capacity as organisations of persons with disabilities, they can uniquely contribute to the strengthening of individuals as well as organisations. The member organisations are strong organisations that have for long worked to improve living conditions for persons with disabilities, both in Sweden and abroad. Many of them have for decades built up organisations and systems to effectively represent their members. By sharing their own experiences of organisational development, they can provide support to their partner organisations and pass on the experiences of their own member organisation and its development and of the Swedish disability movement. Within member organisations, there are also many personal experiences of disabilities. The exchange of experiences between MyRight's member organisations and their partner organisations contribute – in addition to the exchange of ideas on organisation and strategies – to the access to the Swedish organisations' networks and expertise.

More specifically about the role of MyRight, and its member organisations, in relation to the theory of change:

### ***Change at individual level***

MyRight and MyRight's member organisations cooperate with organisations of persons with disabilities to strengthen their ability to reach and mobilize persons with disabilities. Within this work, individuals' self-empowerment, self-determination and full participation can be promoted by projects involving activities aimed at providing support to individuals in various ways; support based on each individual's respective needs in order to be able to participate on equal terms.

### ***Change at organisational level***

MyRight and MyRight's member organisations provide support to organisations of persons with disabilities to enable them to become stronger and develop. This normally includes long-term support to provide continuity in operations and support for advocacy strategies. The support is mainly financial, but the cooperation also includes capacity-building work, both on thematic issues and on administrative and organisational matters. The goal is for the support to give the partner organisations increased legitimacy, mandate and capacity to give voice to their members.



### ***Change at societal level***

MyRight and MyRight's member organisations provide support to organisations of persons with disabilities and their advocacy targeting decision-makers and the general public. It is important for the organisations to create legitimacy and to uphold the mandate given to them by their members. An important part of the support is the training on the national and international instruments, including legislation, which aims to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities. MyRight also conducts its own advocacy work towards decision-makers and the general public in Sweden.

### **Partnership**

A very important aspect of MyRight's development cooperation is the partnerships, partnerships based on close cooperation and mutual trust between MyRight's member organisations and their sister organisations around the world. In most cases where MyRight cooperate with foreign organisations, one or more of MyRight's member organisations is part of the partnership. In addition to MyRight's own role in the cooperation, MyRight also work to strengthen the member organisation and its capacity to play an active role in the partnership. The partnership provides opportunities for the exchange of experience, building of alliances, networking and joint advocacy activities.

## **1.6. MyRight's cooperation**

MyRight cooperates with several different types of actors, both in Sweden and internationally. These are the most important ones.

### **Organisations of persons with disabilities**

MyRight's main target group are the organisations of persons with disabilities with which MyRight and its member organisations have chosen to start a partnership. In addition to these organisations, MyRight seeks cooperation with other organisations of persons with disabilities for project collaboration, thematic knowledge development and the exchange of experiences. MyRight also cooperates with its counterparts in the other Nordic countries. In all of these relationships, accessibility is an important factor, which may call for resources to, among other things, language support in the form of translation and interpretation to sign language as well as other languages.

## **Governmental agencies**

MyRight has a cooperation relationship with selected Swedish governmental agencies as well as a relationship where the agencies are the targets of MyRight's advocacy work. Advocacy in MyRight's programme countries is however mainly implemented by MyRight's local partner organisations.

## **International development cooperation organisations**

MyRight aims to increase the participation of persons with disabilities in Swedish development cooperation and to promote development efforts reaching persons with disabilities to a greater extent. Through the collaboration with other Swedish international development organisations can MyRight promote awareness of how they, themselves, can work to increase the participation of persons with disabilities in their activities. MyRight should also cooperate with development organisations on the exchange of administrative and organisational knowledge and on political context analysis.

## **Organisations and networks**

MyRight is a member of various platforms and organisations in order to have access to knowledge and experiences and to jointly do advocacy on selected issues. These collaborations are important and can contribute to effective advocacy work if strategy-based priorities are regularly made.

## **Decision-makers and opinion-formers**

Decision-makers have both the opportunity and the responsibility to make decisions that ensure that persons with disabilities can enjoy the same human rights as others. Individual opinion-formers can have a particularly large influence, which can give extra weight to the work on a particular issue. Of this reason, MyRight is working to keep both decision-makers and opinion-formers informed of important issues to pursue and to facilitate this through supporting documents, such as thematic reports, testimonies and films.

# **2. Rights of persons with disabilities and MyRight's challenges – a global analysis**

## **2.1. Situation globally for persons with disabilities**

While extreme poverty has decreased considerably for several decades, the gaps between different groups have increased. Persons with disabilities are among the poorest in the world,

and especially affected are girls and women with disabilities, but also women with children with disabilities. These groups are not always included when programmes to combat poverty are implemented.

The disability movement has since 2008, when the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* entered into force, had an important tool for claiming their rights. Since 2015, the global sustainable development goals of Agenda 2030, which mentions persons with disabilities and whose motto is that no one should be left behind when societies develop.

Persons with disabilities are often marginalized and excluded from participation in society's development, for instance through being excluded from educational systems, the labour market, urban planning, and not being given the necessary assisting devices.

There is a politically turbulent situation in several of MyRight's programme countries. Politics, economy, social factors and climate change lead to involuntary migration within countries and across borders. Today, there is no preparedness for migrants with disabilities in large parts of the world.

## **2.2. Opportunities for working with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Agenda 2030**

A majority of the world's countries, including all MyRight's programme countries, have ratified the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. Since the Convention came into force, organisations of persons with disabilities have been able to use it in their advocacy work, which has contributed to many countries' policies moving in the direction of incorporating a disability perspective. However, there remains much work, not least to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the monitoring of the Convention and in the work to design national strategies and plans.

For MyRight, working with the Convention concretely means that the work done by MyRight as well as that of the supported partner organisations can be linked to one or more parts of the Convention. This may be the case for the work on individual rights, such as the right to health or the right to education, but also with more overall issues, such as participation and independence. It may also refer to the use of the Convention as a tool, for instance through the production of alternative reports to the committee which is monitoring states' implementation of the Convention.

MyRight's work being rights-based also means that it is founded on the principles of non-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability.

With partner organisations in several countries on four continents, MyRight has a presence and thus a good position for promoting, together with its member organisations, in-country cooperation within the disability movements in order to conduct advocacy work, especially with regard to monitoring of the *Convention on rights for persons with disabilities*.

The global sustainable development goals are also of the utmost importance to MyRight, MyRight's member organisations and partner organisations, and are an important tool in the work. Through the goals in the Agenda, the work that MyRight do and support can be connected to the work of other organisations towards the same goal. This way, each individual effort can be made part of a larger, global effort towards a sustainable world.

### **2.3. Barriers on the way to the meeting table**

Those who are currently deprived of their rights due to discrimination are those who need to be involved in building a new society. Partly for reasons of democracy, but also because they are the ones having experience and knowledge of the problems that exist and must be addressed.

Globally, several policy areas are lacking a disability perspective. This is also true for MyRight's programme countries and for a large part of the Swedish policy for international cooperation and development. Even for people organised in an organisation of persons with disabilities are there barriers to participation in decision-making and policy-making forums, barriers both due to the attitudes and lack of knowledge of the persons in charge and due to lack of accessibility.

In order for persons with disabilities to become more involved in society and gain more power over their lives, a major change of attitudes of decision makers at both national and international level is needed, as well as the prioritisation of the promotion of inclusion of persons with disabilities.

### **2.4. MyRight's Need for Organisational Development**

Long-term change work requires sustainable organisations. MyRight's country offices are important hubs, but currently there is a weakness due to each country office having its own

administrative system, which has a negative effect on the possibility to cooperate and to develop together.

With digitalisation comes new opportunities for persons with different types of disabilities, but also challenges since there are programs, interfaces and equipment which are not initially adapted for everyone.

For the financing of its work, MyRight is largely dependent on a single donor, which creates risks and thus a need to diversify its income.

MyRight has a high level of expertise in terms of organisation-building and organisational strengthening activities and since its inception it has, normally together with its member organisations, provided training for partner organisations in these areas. This has included leadership and internal democracy, advocacy, strategic planning and systems for internal governance, monitoring and control.

## **2.5. Thematic context analysis**

Girls, women, children and young people are those within the group of persons with disabilities who have the least influence. In 2018 and 2019, MyRight implemented a capacity-building programme on gender for partner organisations. The focus was to increase awareness and increased participation of women and girls with disabilities within the disability movement.

Many young persons with disabilities find themselves in a particularly vulnerable situation, partly because of strong financial dependence on their relatives and many times they are isolated in the home, which makes it difficult for them to get in contact with disability organisations. Many children with disabilities are also denied their right to education, and are not connected to their communities since, sometimes, they are kept inside their homes or placed in institutions.

MyRight's country offices are located in areas that in different ways have undergone or are going through conflicts, political crises and natural disasters and are affected by climate change. Terrible crises as civil wars, genocide, devastating earth quakes and floods can affect a whole society, and people living in poverty, with limited power over their situation, is the worst affected. The group includes persons with disabilities.

## **3. Strategic goals and focus areas 2022-2026**

On the basis of MyRight's vision, value base, external analysis, resources and existing organisation, a number of effect goals and operational goals and success factors have been defined, which will be prioritized within MyRight's work during the strategy period.

The division between effect goals, operational goals and success factors is based on MyRight's desire to create clarity between the goals MyRight itself owns and can influence and the goals which are a desired outcome of the work, but where partner organisations have the ownership of the projects and thus are in a better position than MyRight to influence goal fulfilment.

The effect goals are thus thematic goals that are mainly achieved through the work of the partner organisations, which in turn is made possible by the support provided by MyRight and MyRight's member organisations.

The operational goals are the goals which MyRight, together with member organisations, own, since they are within the scope of their own roles, responsibilities, budget and priorities.

The success factors are, unlike effect goals and operational goals, not goals that are related to the programme. Instead, these are more internal and organisational factors which need to be worked on to strengthen the organisation, increase cost-effectiveness and create conditions to make it possible to do an even more efficient work to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

### **3.1. Effect goals**

The effects referred to are those achieved as a result of the MyRight's work. This work can be the support given to partner organisations, as well as activities performed by MyRight itself or by MyRight's member organisations. The goals set out the thematic areas which MyRight will give priority during the strategy period. These goals should not, however, steer the work of MyRight's partner organisations. These should receive support regardless of their own thematic priorities. Here, the effect goals show which of all effects that shall be prioritised in MyRight's annual reporting.

***By 2026, MyRight's work shall have contributed to:***

***1. The right to live independently and to participate in society (CRPD Art. 19)***

MyRight shall work to ensure that persons with disabilities fully enjoy the right to inclusion and participation in society with choices equal to others. Through the support to strengthen organisations of persons with disabilities, MyRight aims to reduce the isolation of persons with disabilities in the community.

***2. The right to health (CRPD Art. 25)***

MyRight shall promote an increased access to good and equal health for persons with disabilities. A special focus shall be given work for sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and work against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

***3. The right to education (CRPD Art. 24)***

MyRight shall promote an increased access to education for persons with disabilities.

***4. The right to work (CRPD Art. 27)***

MyRight shall promote an increased access to the labour market for persons with disabilities.

***5. Preparedness in crisis and conflict (CRPD Art 11)***

MyRight's shall work to promote that governmental agencies, humanitarian organisations and organisations of persons with disabilities are prepared to provide protection and security for persons with disabilities in relation to humanitarian emergencies, such as armed conflict and natural disasters. In this area, MyRight shall have a particular focus on, and support the member organisations' support to, the work of the partner organisations which is linked to the covid pandemic and its consequences for persons with disabilities.

***6. Participation in national and international opinion and influence work***

MyRight shall work to include persons with disabilities in the follow-up to *Agenda 2030* and the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

## 3.2. Operational goals

The operational goals describe results that MyRight can influence through the work that the organisation itself does. The goals state what MyRight shall do as a priority during the strategy period both in Sweden and in programme countries.

***By 2026, MyRight's work should have resulted in:***

### ***1. Strong administrative and organisational capacity within partner organisations***

MyRight shall be responsive to the partner organisations' need for capacity building while at the same time be working to increase their ability to take responsibility for their own development. During the strategy period, MyRight shall, together with member organisations, primarily work with the following priorities:

- **Participation.** To increase the participation of women and young people is particularly important, not least for organisations' internal democracy and for the possibility to represent different groups of members. While it is up to each partner organisation to choose its forms of representation, support via MyRight shall always aim at strengthening the possibility of individual members' to participate in the work and governance of their organisations.
- **Internal control.** The trust in an organisation and in those in charge is important both from a democratic perspective and for the possibility to increase the opportunities of increased funding.

### ***2. Increased knowledge within organisations of persons with disabilities***

Through their partnerships, MyRight's member organisations play an important role in the development of their partner organisations' knowledge within the member organisations' respective fields of expertise.

MyRight shall provide support for this knowledge-transfer and, through its own work, contribute to strengthening the competency of organisations of persons with disabilities.

### ***3. Stronger disability perspective in Swedish policies for global development and development cooperation***

MyRight shall work with advocacy towards policy-makers to promote the human rights of persons with disabilities and to strengthen the disability perspective and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in work funded by the Swedish government. To achieve success in this work, MyRight shall base the work on the sustainable development goals and on the Convention as well as be working to increase the knowledge of Swedish development organisations on how to adopt a disability perspective in their work.



### **3.3. Success factors**

Success factors are internal organisational factors that shall be prioritised and developed in order for MyRight to be stronger and more cost-effective.

#### ***1. Accessibility***

MyRight shall strengthen and prioritize its work to create an accessible workplace. Among other things, the physical workplaces in all MyRight's offices, need to be adapted both physically and functionally. This includes making MyRight's administrative systems user-friendly from an accessibility perspective. Knowledge and capacity in the field of accessibility shall be high at MyRight.

#### ***2. Result-based management and reporting***

MyRight shall strengthen its system for result-based management and reporting. A harmonised way of dealing with results shall be mainstreamed into all MyRight's work, irrespective of donor. This shall be done in a system which describes what a result is, how results are harvested, verified and reported and quality assured. MyRight's knowledge, together with that of its member organisations and partner organisations, of result-based management and reporting shall increase.

#### ***3. Relevant agency***

MyRight shall work to strengthen its role as the disability movement's organisation for international development cooperation. This includes increasing the number of member organisations, developing the added value of membership and clarifying the role of member organisations within MyRight and in their partnership with their sister organisations. In line with this ambition, the membership model shall also be reviewed.

#### ***4. Visibility***

Visibility is important in several aspects, not least in order to strengthen the advocacy work on MyRight's issues and to increase the number of donors. An increased visibility requires strategic communication work and increased inclusion of member organisations in the outreach work.

#### ***5. Economic stability***

MyRight shall work to increase its income and the number of donors, and introduce an accounting system that can handle several different donors in a cost-effective way.

## **4. Follow-up**

The operational goals and the success factors shall all be given indicators, and results will be followed up annually and reported against these indicators. Results linked to the effect goals, on the other hand, shall be reported through the presentation of examples, which will mainly be derived from partner organisations' annual reports, other reports and interviews. A comprehensive account of MyRight's goal fulfilment shall be presented in MyRight's annual report.