



## Concept Note

### *National Observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) 2025*

**Proposed Theme: *Fostering Disability-Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress***

**Organizer(s):** The event is jointly organized by the Social Security Policy Support (SSPS) Programme of UNDP, UNRC Office, ILO, UN Women, UNICEF, WFP and Sightsavers with support from the Australian Government.

**Date:** 4 December 2025

**Venue:** BCFCC, Carnival Hall, Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh

### **1. Background**

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly to promote the dignity, rights, and well-being of people with disabilities. The day also aims to raise awareness on the benefits of including people with disabilities in all areas of public life - social, economic, cultural, and political.

Bangladesh has shown strong commitment through:

- Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- The Rights and Protection of Persons with Disabilities Act (2013)
- The National Social Security Strategy (2015)
- Ongoing work on the National Disability Strategy (2026–2030)

Yet, barriers to participation remain. Many persons with disabilities, including young people, continue to face limited access to education, employment, public services, and decision-making spaces. Ensuring inclusion requires coordinated action across government, OPDs, UN partners, civil society, and the private sector.

This year's IDPD observance is designed to be practical, youth-centered, and solution-oriented, focusing on how Bangladesh can accelerate progress through collective leadership.

## **2. Purpose of the Event**

**To bring together government, OPDs, UN agencies, civil society, and youth with disabilities to:**

- **Review progress and identify gaps in disability inclusion.**
- **Highlight lived experiences and leadership of people with disabilities.**
- **Co-create concrete, actionable commitments that will shape the next phase of national disability inclusive social protection system.**

## **3. Objectives**

- 1. Strengthen national dialogue on disability-inclusive social progress grounded in rights and accountability.***
- 2. Elevate the role of youth with disabilities as leaders in policy, advocacy, and community-building.***
- 3. Facilitate coordination among government, OPDs, UN agencies, and CSOs to support the National Disability Strategy (2026–2030).***
- 4. Agree on a set of shared commitments to advance inclusion across education, employment, social protection, accessibility, and gender equality.***

## **4. Participants**

- **Ministry of Social Welfare and relevant government ministries**
- **Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (national and grassroots)**
- **UN System Agencies**
- **CSOs and disability rights networks**
- **Private sector and inclusive employers' networks**
- **Youth-led disability initiatives**
- **Media representatives**

## Event Schedule: National symposium on International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025

Theme: **Fostering Disability Inclusive Societies for Advancing Social Progress**

Date: **4 December 2025** Time: **9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

Venue: **BCFCC, Carnival Hall, Agargaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

*\*\*Event will be delivered in Bengali with live English Language Interpretation and sign language interpretation*

TIME	Programme Schedule	
09:00	Registration and Morning Snacks	
Inauguration Session		
09:30	Inaugural Remarks on IDPD 2025 Theme	Ms. Kabery Sultana Jyoti
09:35	Welcome Remarks	Ms. Amrita Rejina Rozario, Country Director, Sightsavers Bangladesh
09:40	Premier of an Audio Visual on Understanding Disability	
09:45	Live performance by children with down syndrome	
10.00-10.30	IDPD 2025 theme and Bangladesh context: challenges and way forward	Revisiting the RRPD Act 2013 and National Action Plan (2018-2025) by Mr. Ayon Debnath, Sightsavers  A Strategic Roadmap for a Disability-Inclusive Society in Bangladesh by Mr. Aminul Arifeen, UNDP Bangladesh
10:30-10:40	Championing Disability-Inclusive Development: Insights from UNDP Bangladesh	Mr. Asim Dio, Advocacy and Networking Specialist, UNDP Bangladesh
10:40-11:10	Reflections by panel on the theme and presentations  Moderator:	Ms. Nasima Akhter, Chair, Equal Bangladesh campaign steering committee  Mr. Mosharraf Hossain, Senior Advocate, Bangladesh Supreme Court

	Mr. Dr. Nafeesur Rahman, Disability Rights Researcher	Ms. Mohua Paul, Cofounder, Access Bangladesh Foundation  Mr. Khandaker Jahurul Alam, Executive Director, CSID
11:10-11:30	Speech by Guest of Honour	Ms. Tessa Murphy  Head of Global Campaigns, Sightsavers, UK
		Mr. James Goldman  Deputy High Commissioner of the British High Commission and Development Director
		Mr. Max Tunon  Country Director, ILO
		Mr. Dragan Popovic  Deputy Resident Representative-OIC, UNDP Bangladesh
11:30-11:35	Speech by Special Guest	Mr. Dr. Mohammad Abu Yusuf  Secretary, Ministry of Social Welfare
11:35-11:45	Speech by Honourable Chief Guest	H.E. Ms. Sharmeen S. Murshid  Hon'ble Advisor, Ministry of Social Welfare  Government of Bangladesh
11.45-11.50	Vote of thanks	Mr. Saidul Haque  Executive Director, BERDO
11:50-12:00	Crest Handover: Acknowledging the Contributions of the Presenters	
End of Inaugural Session and Break		
Thematic session 01: Decent Work and Social Protection		
12:00-12:50	Moderator: Ms. Farjana Reza, ILO	Presentation 1: Disability Insights from Labour Force Survey (DILFS) 2022 Bangladesh

	<p>Discussant 1: Dr. M. A. Razzaque, Chairman, RAPID</p> <p>Discussant 2. Ms. Syeda Samara Mortada, UNWomen Bangladesh</p>	<p>Presenter: Ms. Aziza Rahman, Deputy Director, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics</p> <p><b>Presentation 2:</b> Improved Disability Assessment &amp; Compensations for Workers</p> <p>Presenter: Mr. Saad Gilani, Chief Technical Advisor, ILO</p> <p><b>Presentation 3:</b> Building Inclusive Pathways to Decent Work and Livelihoods for Persons with Disabilities in Chattogram, Bangladesh</p> <p>Presenter: Dr. Md. Arifur Rahman, Chief Executive Director, Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)</p> <p><b>Presentation 4:</b> To facilitate a disability-inclusive workforce in Bangladesh</p> <p>Presenter: Arup Ratan Chowdhury, Program Manager, Bangladesh Business &amp; Disability Network (BBDN)</p>
12:50-13:00	<b>Questions and Answers</b>	
13:00-14:00	<b>Prayer, Lunch &amp; Networking Break</b>	
<b>Thematic Session 2: Inclusive &amp; Quality Education, Care-Giver, Community-Support</b>		
14:00-14:50	<p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr. Sardar A Razzak, DSSB</p> <p>Discussant 1: Dr Rajesh Narwal, Deputy WHO Representative</p> <p>Discussant 2: Mr. Mahbubul Munir, SWID Bangladesh</p>	<p><b>Presentation 5:</b> Inclusive Education Project: Disability Inclusive Development TO-45 (Shikhbo Sobai)</p> <p>Presenter: Md. Jahangir Alam, Senior Coordinator, Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)</p> <p><b>Presentation 6:</b> Assessing the quality of early learning environments in rural Government pre-primary classrooms in Bangladesh</p> <p>Presenter: Mohammad Abdul Awal Miah, icddr,b</p>

	Discussant 3: Ms. Sharmin Akbari, BRAC	<b>Presentation 7:</b> Community-Based Inclusive Child Protection: Strengthening Caregiver Support, Community Engagement and Well-being of Children with Disabilities in Bangladesh  Presenter: Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Director, Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID)
14:50-15:00	<b>Questions and Answers</b>	
15.00-15.10	<b>Live performance and premier of audio visual</b>	
<b>Thematic Session 3: Accessible Infrastructure and Digital Inclusion</b>		
15:15-16: 10	<b>Moderator:</b> Mr. K.S. Rana, Sightsavers  Discussant 1: Ms. Ashrafunnnahar Misti, WDDF  Discussant 3: Mr. Vashkar Bhattacharjee, A2I	<b>Presentation 8:</b> Empowering Persons with Disabilities through Enhanced Accessibility and Digital Inclusion  Presenter: Mr. Uzzol Hosen, Access Bangladesh Foundation  <b>Presentation 9:</b> Disability-Inclusive Climate and Disaster Resilience  Presenter: Ms. Tahmina Tamanna, Climate Resilient Infrastructure Analyst, LoGIC Project, UNDP
16.10-16:20	<b>Questions and Answers</b>	
<b>Concluding Session</b>		
16:20- 16.25	<b>Speech by Special Guest</b>	Dr Susan Vize, Head of Office and UNESCO Representative to Bangladesh (TBF)
16:25- 16.30	<b>Speech by Special Guest</b>	Mr. Muhammad Hiruzzaman ndc  Director General (Additional Secretary)  National Institute of Mass Communication  Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

16:30- 16.35	Speech by Special Guest	Mr. Mohammad Khaled Hasan Additional Secretary, Cabinet Division
16:35- 16.40	Way forward and Closing Remarks	Mr. Md. Saidur Rahman Khan DG, Department of Social Services, MOSW
16:40- 16.45	Vote of thanks	Ms. Murshida Sharmin Joint Secretary, SVRS and Social Protection Branch, Cabinet Division
Closing of the National Symposium with Refreshment		