



# Championing Disability-Inclusive Development: Insights from UNDP Bangladesh

Leaving No One Behind, Empowering Unity, Achieving More

**Presenter:**

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[Messages from the DCO Deputy Director Rosemary Kalapurakal](#)

# Background

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Persons with disabilities are **twice** as likely to live in poverty, and face systematic exclusion from employment, education, healthcare, and social protection.

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Over the last five years, the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS) has guided UNDP and the wider UN system in embedding disability inclusion across programmes, policies, and operations.

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A comprehensive UNDIS review in 2024 informed a strengthened, more ambitious global framework—the new UNDIS (2025–2030)—focusing on accountability, meaningful participation, and system-wide coherence.

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The UN Country Team (UNCT) in Bangladesh has already activated its Disability Inclusion Action Plan, aligning national development support with the new UNDIS standards.

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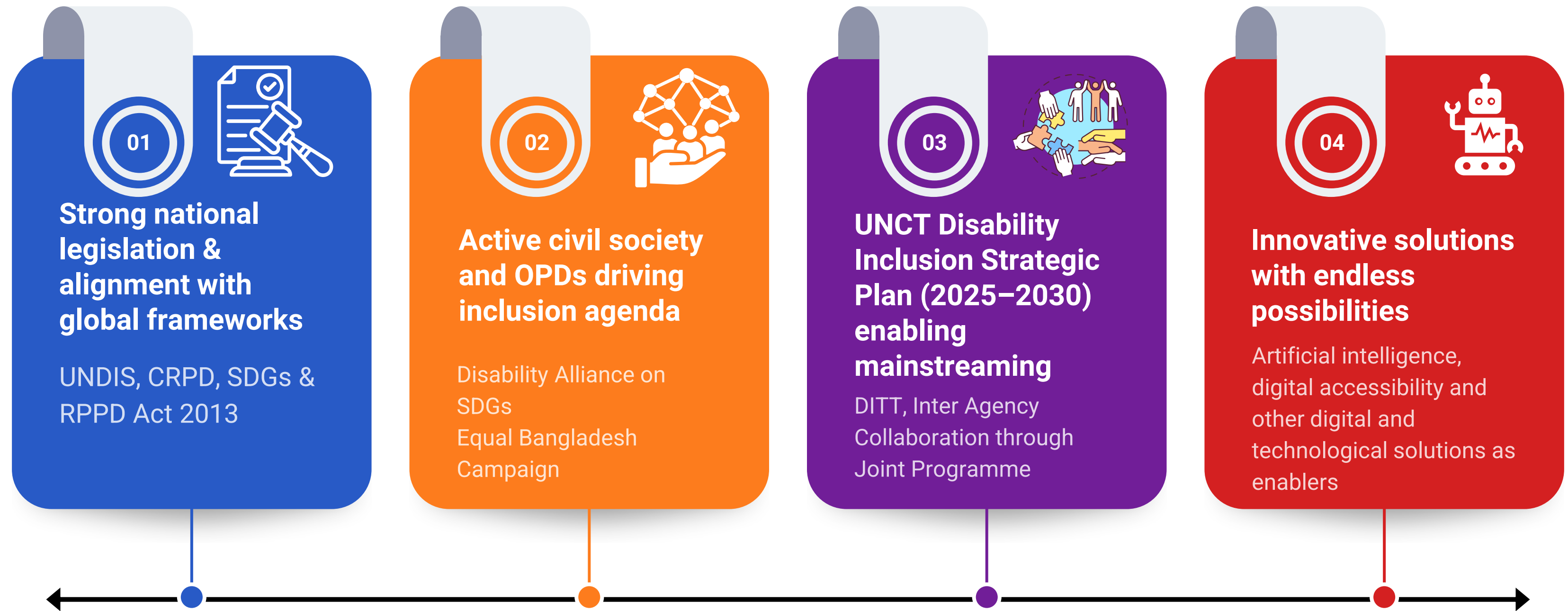
70% of UN teams consulted Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) while shaping their 2024 Strategic Plans, demonstrating a strong commitment to “Nothing About Us Without Us.”

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UNDP Bangladesh has adopted Disability Inclusion Action Plan aligning with UNDIS 2025-2030 to be commenced from 2026.



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# OPPORTUNITIES





# Guiding Principles



Equality & Non-Discrimination –  
Align with CRPD  
Articles 3 & 5.

Meaningful  
Participation –  
Beyond tokenism.

Accessibility &  
Universal Design  
– Across  
environments,  
services, and  
technologies.

Human Rights-  
Based Approach  
– Shift from  
charity to rights.



# Strategic Approaches



## **Twin-Track Approach**

Targeted interventions + mainstreaming disability across all programmes.

## **Internal Coordination**

Disability focal points in all clusters and projects; active taskforce; knowledge sharing.

## **Intersectionality**

Address overlapping identities and barriers.

# What we wish to achieve?

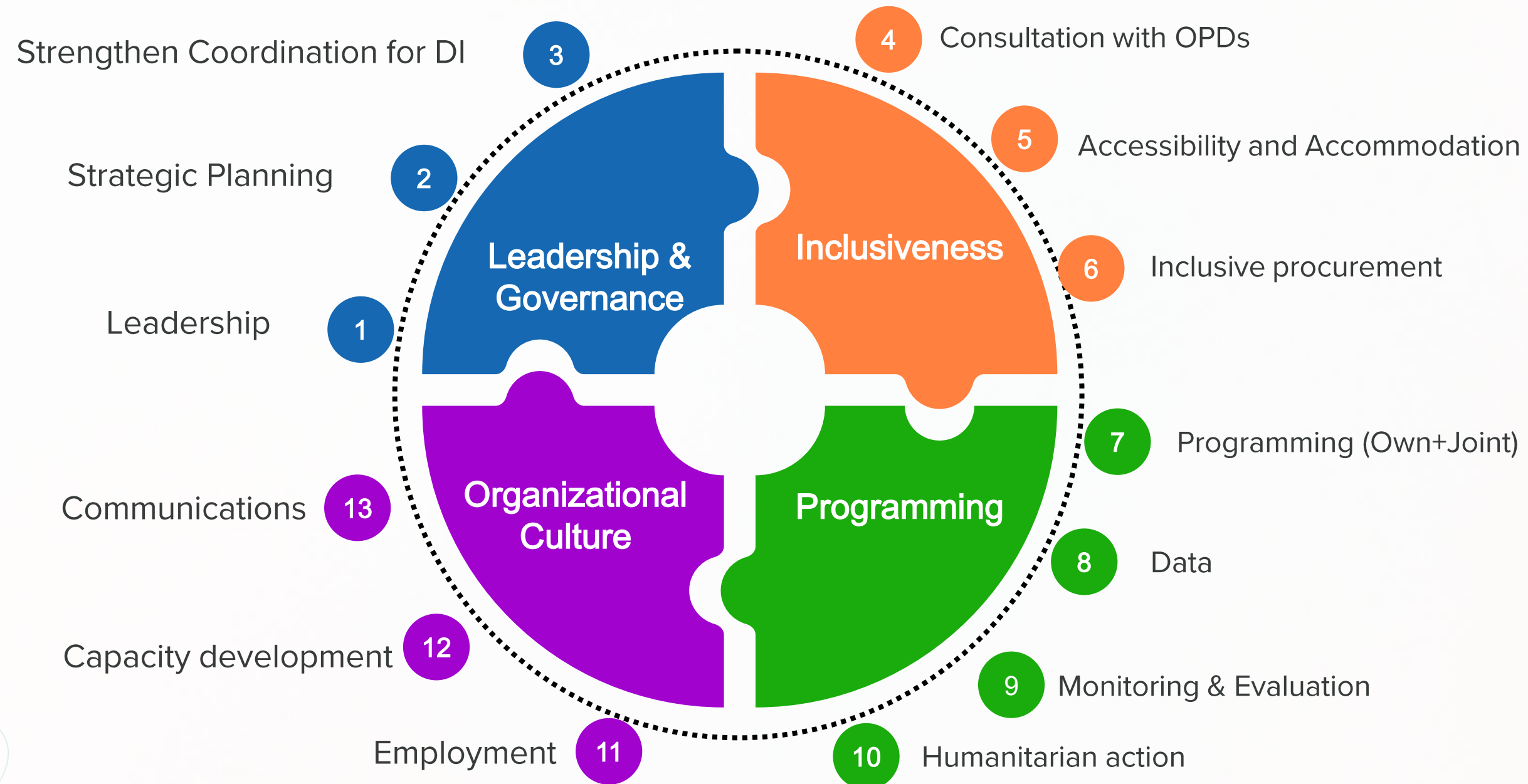


To institutionalize and mainstream disability inclusion across all programmes, operations, and partnerships of UNDP Bangladesh, ensuring full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in all development interventions.

Core process	Leadership & Governance	Org. Culture	Int. Coordination	Participation	Monitor, evaluate, and report
Integrate disability inclusion into all UNDP Bangladesh programmes, operations, and partnerships.	Ensure leadership and accountability with clear roles, responsibilities, and performance indicators under UNDIS.	Promote an inclusive culture through awareness, training, and active engagement of focal points.	Strengthen coordination via a disability inclusion task force and shared best practices.	Ensure participation of persons with disabilities, especially those with multiple disadvantages, in all initiatives.	Monitor, evaluate, and report progress using UNDIS indicators, adapting strategies as needed.



# Framework for Action: UNDIS 2025-30





# Implementation Strategy

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Integrate disability inclusion into core processes & training.

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Low/no-cost activities: online sensitization, accessibility quick-wins, peer learning.

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Repurpose existing resources & collaborate with partners.

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Continuous resource mobilization via proposals, CSR, donor engagement.





## Moving forwards

Prioritize disability inclusion in future programming

Strengthen System-wide Accountability

Deepen Meaningful Participation of OPDs

Accelerate Policy & Institutional Reforms – future programmatic scope

Invest in Inclusive Innovation & Data Systems - future programmatic scope



**True inclusion means  
shared leadership  
— building communities  
where everyone  
can contribute, belong,  
and thrive.**



**Rosemary Kalapurakal**

DCO Deputy Director



# Closing & Call to Action

**Listening and  
learning**

from persons with disabilities.

**Building**

accessible systems across all  
sectors.

**Elevating**

unity over silos, collaboration over  
isolation.

**Transforming**

commitments into action—so we can  
truly achieve more.

**Rights must be  
lived, not only  
proclaimed.**



International  
Day of  
**Persons with  
Disabilities**  
3 DECEMBER



# Thank You