

# Inclusive Trade and Persons with Disabilities

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# Objectives of the report

1. How to think about the links between trade and persons with disabilities
2. What is currently being done on the issue?
3. What needs to be done to advance a disability inclusive trade agenda (with focus on Aid for Trade)

# **How to think about the links between trade and persons with disabilities**

# How the report defines disability and trade

Interactional and human rights understanding of disability:

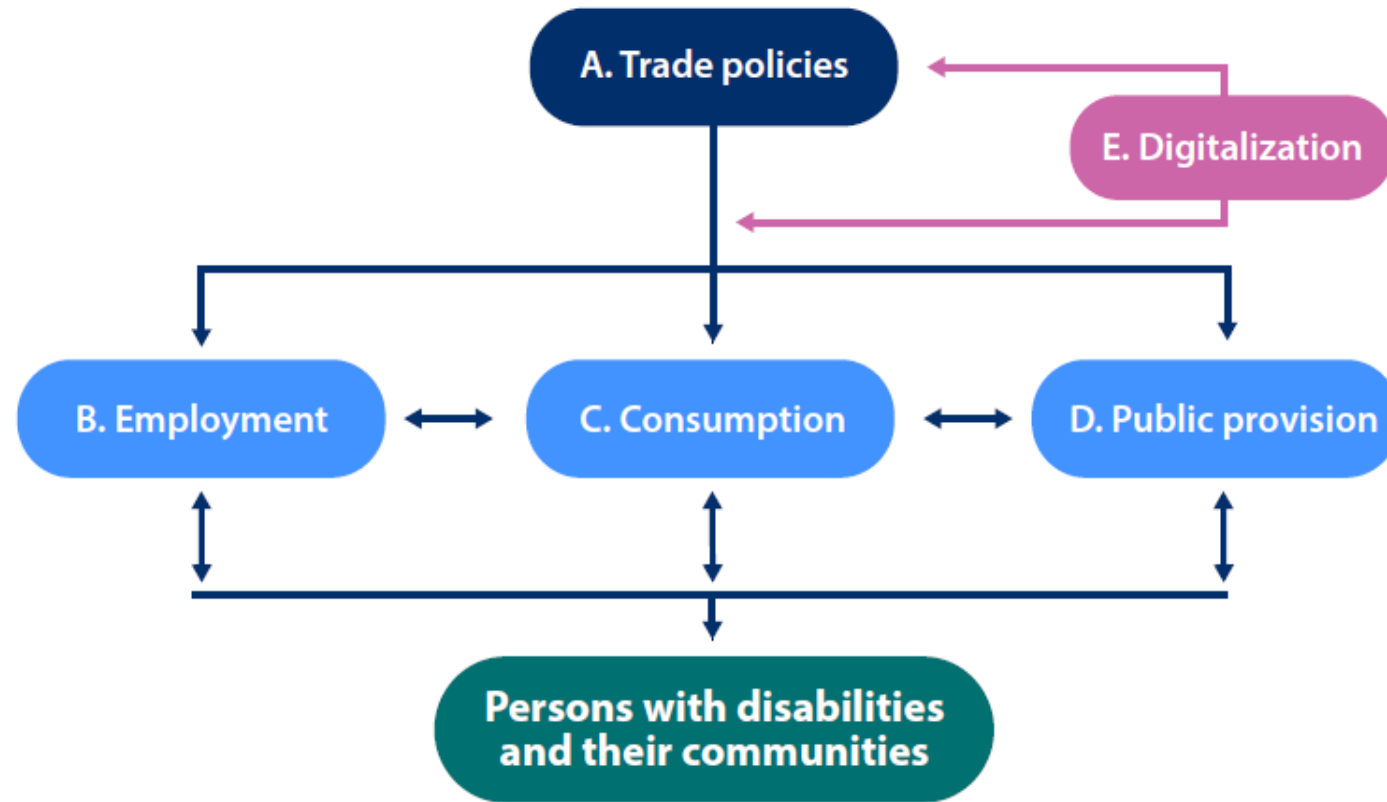
- Disability is universally relevant
- Persons with disabilities as participants in the economy as workers, consumers and citizens (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
- Focus on environmental barriers and resources availability

Broad notion of trade policy:

- Not only tariffs and export promotion but also other trade regulations
- Need for effective coordination with other policies

# The Analytical Framework

Figure 1. Trade policies and persons with disabilities: transmission channels



# A checklist: What disability inclusive trade policies would look like?

## **A. Trade policies**

A.1. The substantive participation of persons with disabilities and OPDs in trade policy decision-making contributes to shape a disability inclusive trade policy agenda.

A.2. Trade agreements adopt a human rights approach to disability.

## **B. Employment**

B.1. Trade policies improve working conditions, pay, and accessibility of trade-related occupations where persons with disabilities are already employed.

B.2. Trade policies generate new and better employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in higher value-added segments of value chains.

## **C. Consumption**

C.1. Trade policies improve availability and reduce prices of goods and services that are essential for human development (e.g. quality food and medicines).

C.2. Trade policies boost local capacity in the provision of AT products and services, and increase competitiveness of global AT markets by facilitating entry of firms from LMICs.

## **D. Public Provision**

D.1. Resources allocated to essential health services and social protection are adequate and these services are made accessible.

D.2. Trade-related regulations related to the supply of public services protect equitable access for the most disadvantaged.

D.3. Universal accessibility standards for roads, transport and other infrastructure are enforced.

## **E. Digitalization**

Trade policies go hand in hand with policy efforts to reduce barriers to digital inclusion. Measures aimed at improving accessibility and affordability of digital technologies, digital skills, internet safety and regulations are put in place.

**What is currently being done on the issue?**

# Insights from projects on the ground

- Three priority areas identified by stakeholders:
  - Better terms of inclusion in GVCs
  - Increased production, trade and use of assistive technologies
  - Reducing the disability digital divide
- Holistic/”eco-system” approaches are the most effective
- The involvement of persons with disabilities and their organizations (OPDs) is essential
- Projects that bring together people with and without disabilities may work better
- Some groups face intensified barriers (e.g. women)
- Existing projects are mostly small-scale



# **What needs to be done to advance a disability inclusive trade agenda**

# Recommendations for how Aid for Trade can promote the rights of persons with disabilities

1. Ensure that global trade rules are consistent with government commitments to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities.
2. Support the active involvement of persons with disabilities and OPDs in Aid for Trade design and implementation, and other trade policy arenas.
3. Promote integrated approaches to employment policy and robust multi-stakeholder engagement to generate decent jobs in GVCs.
4. Invest in physical infrastructure that complies with universal design principles and promote accessibility.

# Recommendations (continued)

5. Reduce the digital divide and promote inclusion of persons with disabilities in ICT-enabled international trade.
6. Develop local capacity to provide AT products and repair services, and help firms from low-income countries to integrate into global AT markets.
7. Strengthen data analysis and monitoring.
8. Increase visibility of issues affecting persons with disabilities in policy reports on inclusive trade.