

# SPARK in a nutshell

May 16, 2024



# SPARK in a nutshell

- Aims to **identify, develop and test tools, methodologies, and approaches** to include persons with disabilities in IFAD operations and rural development overall
- Consortium: International Labour Organization, Light for the World, Procasur
- Systemic action learning approach – a range of publications will be launched by September 2024
- Focus countries: **Burkina Faso, India, Malawi and Mozambique**
- Helpdesk to support more countries [Home - SPARK \(sparkinclusion.org\)](https://sparkinclusion.org)
- Period: 2021-2024



## Overall objective:

- **Persons with disabilities**, particularly women and youth with disabilities, **become active participants in, and benefit from, rural development projects** tailored to fit the specific profiles of their disabilities, priority needs, constraints and opportunities.



# How do we spark disability inclusive rural transformation?



# INNOVATIVE APPROACH



Putting persons  
with disabilities  
in the lead:



**Disability Inclusion Academies  
– working with Disability  
Inclusion Facilitators**



# Working with Disability Inclusion Facilitators

A Disability Inclusion Facilitator (DIF) is a person that supports awareness and implementation of disability inclusion in mainstream programmes, services, organisations or workplaces



**82** young persons with disabilities were trained as Disability Inclusion Facilitators

**31** mentors were trained and guide the DIFs in their inclusion work



- DIFs provide professional advice to IFAD projects, beneficiaries, and other stakeholders on how to make disability inclusion work, tailored to their different contexts.
- Awareness sessions were also organized for Inclusive Farmer Groups using the Picture Box Tool
- In 2022 & 2023 DIFs provided 1.185 professional services reaching out to more than 50,000 people across the four countries



# WHAT DO DIFS DO?



Build  
Relationships



Mobilize  
People with  
Disabilities



Act as role  
models and  
changemakers



Disability  
Awareness  
Training



Monitor and  
document  
change



Provide  
Technical  
Support





# WHY do we apply the DIF model in SPARK

## Self-advocacy

**System change**

“Nothing about us without us”; actively involving people with disabilities in decisions and programmes that affect their lives

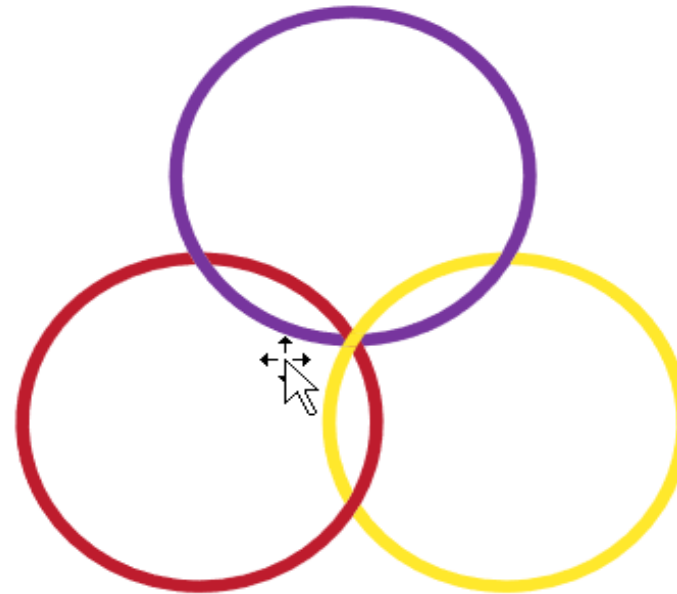
**Mindset Change**

## Ability in Action

having trainers with disabilities delivering disability awareness sessions shifts the focus from their impairments to their abilities and has a lasting impact on their audience.

## Value of Lived Experiences

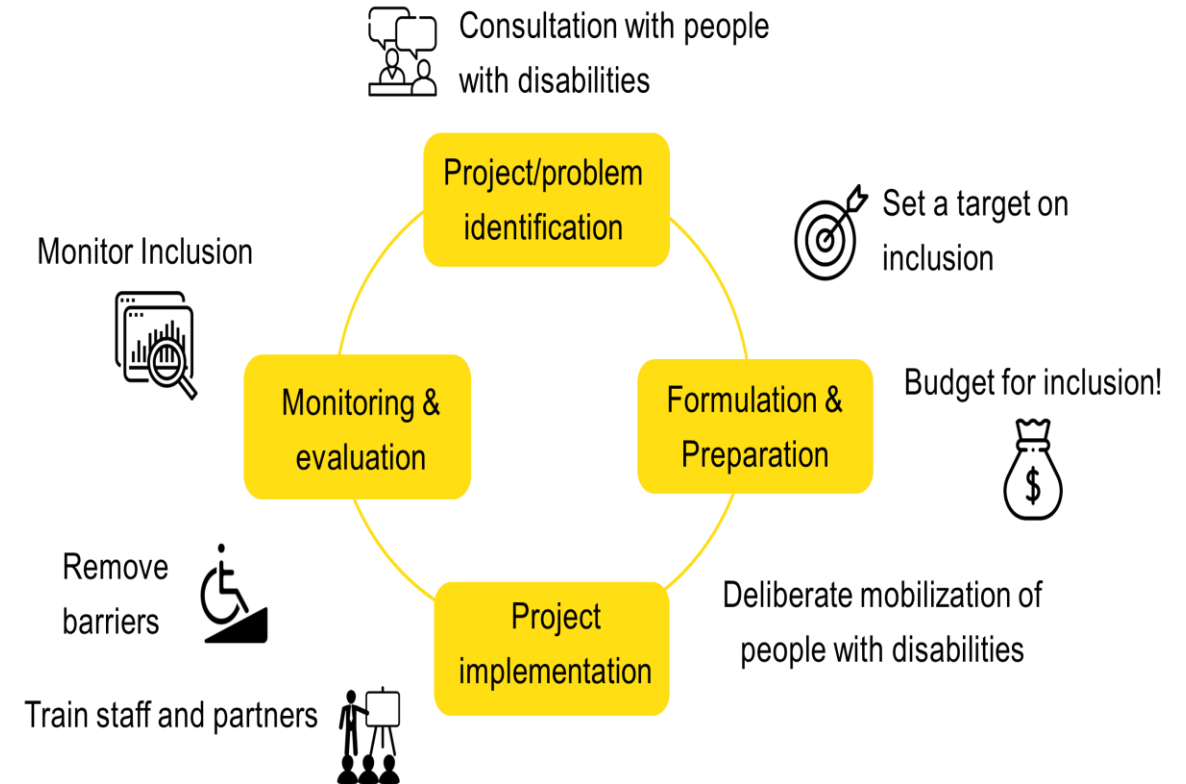
The combination of lived experience of disability and technical expertise on disability inclusion brings forth practical advice and creative solutions.



# INNOVATIVE APPROACH



## Promoting disability inclusion as an integral part of program design and implementation



# Disability Inclusive Programming in practice

- **518** of staff from IFAD funded projects, implementing partners, and service providers have been **trained on disability inclusion**
- **Disability inclusion was benchmarked at program/organisational level** for participating IFAD programmes/operational actors and other key stakeholders. **14 Disability Inclusion Action Plans** are being implemented
- **Targeted partnership with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs)**



## Disability Inclusion activities – Burkina Faso

- Advocacy at the national level for the adaptation of production sites for persons with disabilities and participation of persons with disabilities in decision making bodies
- Cooperatives are including of producers with disabilities
- Collaboration between OPD, MFI and project for access to credit for project participants with disabilities

## Disability Inclusion activities - Mozambique

- Agricultural and Nutrition Fair was organized in coordination with the IFAD funded program PROCAVA, and district stakeholders
- More than 300 people participated in the event, where 130 people were people with disabilities - participants of PROCAVA



# Images during the Agri-food and nutrition fair



**INNOVATIVE APPROACH**



# **Disability Inclusive Value Chain Development -DIVCAT**



# OPPORTUNITIES

## BARRIERS

- ☹️ Attitudes
- 📄 Communication
- 🚶 Accessibility
- 📑 Policies

### Core Value Chain

- 🏪 Market
- 🚚 Distribution
- 👥 Processing
- 📦 Aggregation
- 🌾 Production  
[ Inputs ]



Women and men  
with disabilities

Families and Communities  
[ Beliefs and Practices ]

### Extended Value Chain

#### ACCESS

Support Services  
and Assets  
[ Land, Finance,  
Business Development  
Support, Extension  
services ]



National Enabling Environment



[ National and Local Policies on Disability, Agriculture and Rural Development ]



Global Enabling Environment



[ Regional and International Policy Frameworks: UNCRPD, SDGs ]

# Disability Inclusive Value Chain Assessment Tool (DIVCAT)



Value chain interventions are analysed from a **disability-inclusion perspective** and **persons with disabilities are included** in the most promising nodes and sectors in terms of business and jobs opportunities.

DIVCAT is developed with a **gender lens** and is based on the framework to conduct **Gender sensitive value chain analysis**

DIVCAT tool has been applied in the honey, airy, cowpeas, rice and Soumbala in Burkina Faso and Malawi





**INNOVATIVE APPROACH**



# **Innovation Labs and Agrilabs**



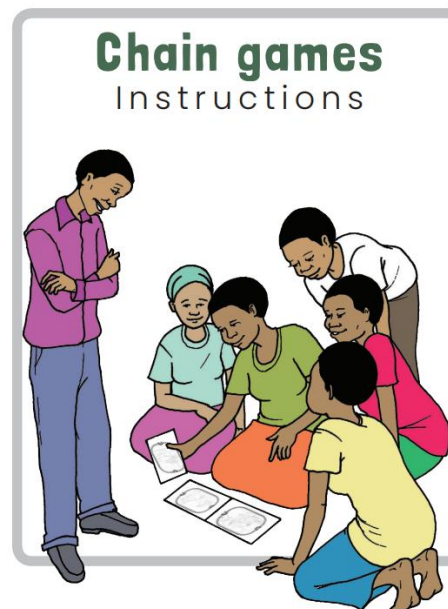
# Nurturing creative capacity for solution building

- Co-design of assistive technology or other solutions that enable people with disabilities to engage in livelihood activities
- Using the Human Centered Design approach empowering people with disabilities to independently create solutions to their own problems in the future



# Innovation labs and co-creation spaces

- **AgriLab technology** started with a Master training held in Mozambique and was then rolled out to Malawi, Burkina Faso and Mozambique
- Through **Social innovation labs 2 games on Inclusive value chains** have been developed



# Examples of innovations through AgriLab - Malawi



# Examples of innovations through AgriLab - Mozambique



**“Agrilab has made me think beyond the project and about my life and my own development” - Reflections from phase II of the AgriLab in Mozambique**

**Agrilab also builds confidence**



# Examples of innovations through AgriLab – Burkina Faso



# Resource platform on Disability Inclusion in rural economies

Information available in English, French & Portuguese

[Home - SPARK \(sparkinclusion.org\)](http://sparkinclusion.org)



# THANK YOU!



*“We have been upgraded in our thinking around disability inclusion. We have ideas on what to do and how to do it. With the knowledge gained, we have the space to quickly scale up what we have learned so we can present this to IFAD and share our lessons learned.”*

TRADE, Malawi

