

equality, respect for cultural diversity and environmental sustainability, and aims at promoting people's empowerment for the full exercise of their fundamental rights and political participation, ensuring inclusion for all and non-discrimination, including on the grounds of disability.

AECID contributes **financially and technically** to Spain's international leadership in social inclusion. AECID's programmes have **remarkable impact on the rights of people with disabilities in developing countries**, including actions regarding access to **education, vocational training, employability**, universal **accessibility**, empowerment through **culture** and creativity and **humanitarian action** in refugee camps and emergency situations.

AECID, as the leading institution in the Spanish Cooperation system, also supports other entities to efficiently work in this field, and has published a *Guide for the inclusion of disability in development cooperation*.

The Agency has worked for many years on advancing the **social inclusion of persons with disabilities and universal accessibility** in collaboration with the **Spanish Board on Disabilities** (appertaining to Spanish Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality). **Universal accessibility** was introduced into the Spanish development cooperation agenda in 2007, when AECID signed a collaboration agreement with the ACS Foundation which included, inter alia, training activities and dialogue on **best practices** regarding accessibility and **technical assistance to AECID-supported projects** in order to ensure universal design in public spaces and architectural restorations, as well as in the infrastructure of AECID's network of Cultural Centres.

Since 2009, the AECID has contributed financially to open access to **Latin Ame-**



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AECID's programmes have remarkable impact on the rights of people with disabilities in developing countries

rican municipalities to the prestigious Reina Sofía Universal Accessibility Awards, now known as the **Queen Letizia Universal Accessibility Awards**. AECID has also fostered the processes leading to the adoption of the **IberoAmerican Declaration on Universal Accessibility** and the creation of the **Ibero-Ame-**

rican Network for Universal Accessibility. AECID's actions in Latin America have been selected as "best practices" and included as such in the *Handbook on Accessible Tourism for All*, published by the UN's World Tourism Organisation (WTO).

AECID's annual funding calls for **Spanish NGOs** also deserve mention, as they have consistently supported organizations working with persons with disabilities, as well as work with international organizations.

Furthermore, AECID signed a **collaboration agreement with the Spanish Committee of Representatives of Persons with Disabilities (CERMI)**, the **Spanish National Organization for the Blind (ONCE)** and the **ONCE Foundation for Solidarity with Blind Persons in Latin America (FOAL)**. This framework seeks to collaborate with civil society organisations in order to mainstream disability issues into partner countries' public policies and Spanish international development cooperation programmes. One of the results of this collaboration was a report on *Disabilities in the Spanish Development Policy*, which is publically available.

Spain and AECID have received several national and international prizes, such as the prestigious **Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award** or the **CERMI prize** for "introducing disabilities into the country's official international development policies with increasing effectiveness". In 2013, the Spanish National Organization for the Blind (ONCE), one of AECID main allies in the field of disability, won the **Prince of Asturias Award for Concord**.

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SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) is the Spanish Cooperation's main management body, aimed at combating poverty and promoting sustainable human development and inclusive and diverse societies.

AECID is a public agency under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation. The Agency has its own legal personality and differentiated treasury, as well as financial and functional autonomy. The Secretary of State for International Development Cooperation and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean is the President of AECID. Besides the Presidency and the Director of AECID, the Agency's government structure includes an Executive Council ("Consejo Rector") and an Advisory Council ("Consejo de Cooperación").

AECID's structure is organized around one General Secretariat and 5 Directorates: the Directorate for Cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean; the Directorate for Cooperation with Africa and Asia; the Directorate for Multilateral, Horizontal and Financial Cooperation; the Directorate for Cultural and Scientific Relations; and the Office for Humanitarian Action. There is also a Cabinet that directly supports the Director and ensures coordination of all five Directorates and the General Secretariat.

AECID'S MISSION STATEMENTS

Act 23/1998, of 7 July, on International Development Cooperation considers the Agency as the executive body for Spanish Cooperation, and defines its purpose through its priorities: fostering development and balance in international rela-



Alas Abiertas, a cultural project in Asunción (Paraguay).

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tions, preventing and addressing emergencies, fostering democracy, and promoting relations with partner countries. To this end, its toolbox includes technical cooperation, economic and financial cooperation, humanitarian assistance, education for development and social awareness raising.

The Agency's Statute identifies the following goals:

- Contribute to the eradication of poverty in developing countries.
- Promote sustainable human development and foster the capacities of developing countries.
- Contribute to peace, freedom and human security, promoting human rights and the development of democratic systems.
- Promote social cohesion by fostering good governance and sound public policies in developing countries.
- Foster equality and inclusive

public policies in development countries. Advance gender equality both by promoting specific actions and by mainstreaming the gender perspective in all the Agency's programmes and projects.

- Contribute to a better and safer environment, both by promoting specific actions and by mainstreaming the environmental sustainability perspective in all the Agency's programmes and projects.
- Reinforce humanitarian action, including prevention and direct attention in emergencies and reconstruction contexts.
- Raise awareness concerning sustainable development, global citizenship and diversity, inclusion and equality, both in Spain and in the Spanish Cooperation's partner countries.
- Reinforce the role of culture and knowledge in sustainable development, especially by promoting respect and protection for cultural diversity.



GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS

The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), together with its partners, works in more than 30 countries through its network of **Technical Cooperation Offices (OTC)**, **Cultural Centres (CC)**, and **Training Centres (CF)**.

AECID's main geographical areas of work are Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa (including both Sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa) and Asia (essentially the Middle East and the Philippines).

More specifically, we work closely, through bilateral programmes, with the following countries, according to the Spanish Cooperation's Director Plan:

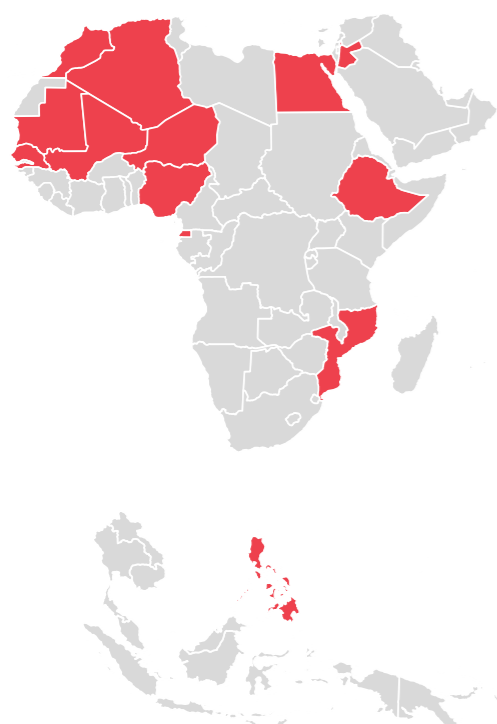
- **Associated Less Advanced Countries:** Ethiopia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Senegal and Haiti.
- **Associated Middle Income Countries and Territories:** Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Morocco, Palestine and the Philippines.



- **Advanced Cooperation Countries:** Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, Cape Verde, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Tunisia and Jordan.

Sahel and in the Maghreb and the Middle East, promoting regional programmes such as MASAR and supporting integration and regional organizations such as the OAS, the Ibero-American General Secretariat, the Central American Integration System (SIC

However, **we also work regionally** in Latin America and the Caribbean, in West Africa and the



CENTRO CULTURAL (CC) 2
OFICINAS TÉCNICAS DE COOPERACIÓN (OTC) 13

OTC Etiopía Addis Abeba
OTC Jordania Ammán
OTC Argelia Argel
OTC Mali Bamako
CC Guinea Ecuatorial Bata
OTC Senegal Dakar
OTC Egipto El Cairo
OTC Territorios palestinos Jerusalén
CC OTC Guinea Ecuatorial Malabo
OTC Mozambique Maputo
OTC Niger Niamey
OTC Nigeria Abuja
OTC Mauritania Nuackchott
OTC Cabo Verde Praia
OTC Marruecos Rabat

OFICINAS TÉCNICAS DE COOPERACIÓN (OTC) 1

OTC Filipinas Manila



SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Spain has signed and ratified the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRP)** and its Optional Protocol.

Defending and promoting human rights, and ensuring the mainstreaming of a human rights-based approach, is one of the priorities of the Spanish foreign policy and international cooperation, with the aim of guaranteeing peace and security throughout the world. **Fostering and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities is one of the five top priorities** of this policy, as stated by the Spanish Office for Human Rights. AECID supports the priorities established in the recommendations of the UN HLM on Disability and Development.

In 2011, the **Spanish Law on International Development Cooperation** was amended in

order to adapt it to the CRPD, incorporating a legal mandate to guarantee "the protection and respect of human rights, equal opportunities, non-discrimination and universal accessibility for persons with disabilities". This approach is included in two ways: by highlighting the needs of people with disabilities within the sectorial priorities set out in the law and by ensuring that all instruments implemented by the Spanish policy on international cooperation are inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities.

The Spanish Disability Strategy (2012-2020) is the main reference and long-term guideline of the Spanish public policies to support the needs of people with disabilities. The Strategy's objectives target the intervention in primary policy areas, in line with the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, and includes specific measures regarding external action, including development programmes

implemented by AECID.

The IV Spanish Cooperation Master Plan (2013-2016) included, for the first time, a crosscutting perspective related to the needs of people with disabilities, both in the political and strategic priorities at the national

Protecting the rights of persons with disabilities is one of the five top priorities of Spanish human rights foreign policy

and international levels, thus ensuring the integration of the disability perspective in projects and specific actions with partner countries.

The current Spanish Cooperation Master Plan (2018-2021) reinforces cross-cutting principles such as gender