

Concept Note: Global Validation Workshop

IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

Madrid – 8 – 11 April 2019

CONTEXT

In 2016, the United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Working Group agreed to the establishment a Task Team (“Task Team”) on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. The Task Team is mandated to create IASC Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action between January 2017 and December 2018. The Guidelines will assist humanitarian actors, governments and affected communities to coordinate, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate essential actions that foster the effectiveness, appropriateness and efficiency of humanitarian action, resulting in the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities and changing practice across all sectors and in all phases of humanitarian action, based in international legal frameworks – International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and Refugee Law. The Task Team membership spans UN agencies, humanitarian actors, NGOs and organisations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) and includes Member States as observers. The Task Team is led by three co-chairs: Handicap International, the International Disability Alliance and UNICEF.

Further details on the Task Team, including Terms of Reference and Work Plan, can be found on the IASC website:

<https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-task-team-inclusion-persons-disabilities-humanitarian-action>

The IASC Guidelines will assist humanitarian actors, governments, affected communities, organizations of persons with disabilities and other stakeholders to coordinate, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate essential actions which aim to foster the effectiveness, appropriateness, accessibility and efficiency of humanitarian action, resulting in the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities and changing practice across all sectors and in all phases of humanitarian action.

The success of the IASC Guidelines will depend on the relevance, applicability and usability of its content to humanitarian actors working in the sector. Therefore, this final consultation seeks to ensure that the final draft meet the different stakeholders expectations and can be implemented in responding to humanitarian emergencies.

Guidelines development Process:

- A desk review of existing materials was conducted as a first step for the guidelines development. The desk review aimed at proposing recommendations on the content and structure of the guidelines with particular attention to standards and principles set up by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.
- A multi-stakeholder workshop in Geneva to formulate the broad content and outline of the Guidelines.
- A series of regional consultation in the Pacific, Africa, Asia, Latin and Central America to provide inputs related to the content and structure of the guidelines. The workshops brought together humanitarian stakeholders, UN agencies, organization of persons with disabilities to discuss the needs and potential solutions related to inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities.
- Thematic consultations on gender, disability and humanitarian action.
- A consultation with persons with intellectual disabilities (self-advocates) to ensure their voices and inputs are included in the guidelines.
- A Global online survey
- Multi-stakeholder workshops in Geneva and Brussels to review interim Guidelines draft
- Review and Written feedback from IASC task team on draft 2

A Global multi-stakeholder validation workshop will take place in Madrid between April 8 and 11 2019.

This workshop seeks to ensure that the final draft of the guidelines meet the expectations of different stakeholders, support inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities and can be implemented while responding to humanitarian emergencies.

Objectives:

- Introduction to current content and share feedback on choices made during the last revision process, for integrating which feedback or not
- Obtain feedback on the applicability and usability of the guidelines in different regions, humanitarian contexts and stakeholders.
- Identify any key concerns or red lines with the final draft of the guidelines and how they can be addressed
- Develop a strategy to launch the guidelines and ensure its dissemination for operationalization.

The final draft of the guidelines that will be discussed in Madrid has been developed with recommendations and inputs collected through wide ranging consultations and written feedback. A number of experts have also been involved in the development of the content. The validation workshop therefore does not aim at collecting further content or undertake major changes but to seek feedback on how to improve the current content to ensure humanitarian stakeholders can implement it.

Participants

Participants of the workshop will include representatives from Organisations of Persons with Disabilities, Governments, UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs.

The participants will comprise individuals from above stakeholder group who have participated in previous IASC Regional and Thematic consultations which have contributed to the development of the current draft. A balance of participants between different stakeholder groups and Regions will be ensured.

Expected number of participants: 55

Agenda

April 8th	Topic
Morning 9.30 am – 12.30pm	Arrival of participants and registration Ground rules Workshop agenda Introduction of the structure and content of the guidelines Presentation of changes made between draft 2 and final draft What will not change what can change as result of the validation workshop General questions and plenary exchanges
Afternoon 1.30 – 5.30 pm	Per regional group: review introduction, legal framework, key concepts , cross-cutting issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure these sections are relevant and related to inclusion of persons with disabilities- Review if these parts can be understood by humanitarian stakeholders with no/little prior knowledge of disability- Review simplicity of these section (language, jargon, navigation, etc.) Share feedback in plenary
April 9 th	Topic
Morning 9.30 am – 12.30 pm	Review Must Do and Barriers sections <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Can these parts be understood by humanitarian actors?- Are links made with other sections and are the icons appropriate and easy to use to navigate the guidelines- Is it CRPD and IHL/IHRL compliant- Do we need to reference other key documents Share feedback in plenary

Afternoon 1.30 – 5.30 pm	Sector common considerations: - Review relevance, simplicity, clarity and usability of the section
April 10 th	
Morning and afternoon 9.30 am – 5.30 pm	Review of Sectors for the whole day - Review relevance, simplicity, clarity and usability of the different sectors. - Review links to other sections and icon - Compliance with CRPD, IHL and IHRL
April 11 th	
Morning 9.30 am – 12.30 pm	Continue sector review if need be
Afternoon 1.30 – 5.30 pm	Discuss launch and dissemination strategy

Methodology:

The discussion will be structured around the following key criteria :

- **Relevant** – Is the content of the Guidelines relevant to your work? Would you use it to include persons with disabilities as partners throughout humanitarian action? Would you use it to plan for and meet the accessibility and reasonable accommodation needs of persons with disabilities as partners throughout humanitarian action? Could you provide practical examples of its use in your planning and implementation work?
- **Simplicity** – Could you read and understand the content of the Guidelines and know what to do with the recommendations provided? If not, which adaptations would you make?
- **Utility** – Does the level of detail of the recommendations provided in the Guidelines seem practical to use in your programmes (e.g. practical to implement)? If not, which adaptations would you make?
- **Adaptability** – Do you think these Guidelines will support you to put in place different methods and approaches with persons with [different types of] disabilities/in different phases of a humanitarian context/ in different sectors and different accessibility and accommodation needs? If not, which adaptations would you make?
- **Usability** – Are the Guidelines easy to navigate and use? Would they be easy to navigate in a humanitarian response? If not, which adaptations would you make?