



CALL FOR ACTION ON COMMITMENTS TO DISABILITY INCLUSIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION AT THE GLOBAL DISABILITY SUMMIT

The second Global Disability Summit will be held on February 2022, hosted by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the Governments of Norway and Ghana. **In the lead-up to this important event, we the undersigned, call on governments, multilateral agencies and civil society to make concrete commitments for advancing the rights of children and adults with disabilities impacted by humanitarian emergencies, who are too often forgotten and left behind.**

Over 41 million persons with disabilities are expected to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022.¹ We know that in armed conflict, disasters, situations of forced displacement and public health emergencies such as COVID-19, children and adults with disabilities face higher risks of violence, exploitation and abuse than those without disabilities; often lack access to basic services and life-saving assistance; and are denied opportunities to participate in decision-making. Further, climate change will continue to exacerbate ongoing crisis situations and create new ones that will severely impact on the most at risk communities across the globe and particularly on persons with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities are at heightened risk in emergencies as a result of multiple barriers to accessing assistance, service systems and economic opportunities. Humanitarian interventions often do not consider the accessibility requirements of persons with disabilities; while national systems may exclude populations affected by humanitarian emergencies, including persons with disabilities, due to administrative and other obstacles.

Crucially, persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are rarely engaged as partners in responding to a humanitarian emergency. And children, young people, women and girls with disabilities, as well as persons with intellectual or psychosocial disabilities and persons with deafblindness are particularly excluded.

These challenges are not new. And progress is being made. But we still have far to go.

We call on all partners to ensure that over 41 million children and adults with disabilities in humanitarian settings are not left behind as commitments are made to promote the rights of persons with disabilities worldwide. For this, we need to break the siloes that challenge the power of our collaboration. All stakeholders, including humanitarian actors, States, private sector, communities, organizations of persons with disabilities and others working to promote inclusion of persons with disabilities need to join efforts to scale up investment in disability inclusive emergency preparedness and response.

¹ Based on 15% of the total number of persons expected to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022, according the OCHA Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 [Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 | OCHA \(unocha.org\)](https://www.unocha.org/global-humanitarian-overview-2022)

It is through this joined up approach and by taking proactive, concrete measures that we can make further progress towards ensuring the rights of persons with disabilities in humanitarian emergencies. In this regard, we call on all partners to commit to:

- **Build** strong partnerships with organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) as leading partners in emergency preparedness and response, and particularly to support leadership and participation by persons with disabilities impacted by humanitarian emergencies, including children, young people and adults from more marginalized groups
- **Increase** resourcing of disability inclusive humanitarian action
- **Strengthen** capacity on a rights-based approach to disability inclusive humanitarian action
- **Make** humanitarian action inclusive of children and adults with disabilities throughout the humanitarian programme cycle, including in needs assessment, monitoring, reporting and the design of feedback and complaints mechanisms
- **Make** all aspects of emergency preparedness and response accessible to children and adults with disabilities, including those with physical, sensory, intellectual and psychosocial disabilities
- **Make** all humanitarian assistance accessible to children and adults with disabilities, including distribution of food and non-food items; shelter; water, sanitation and hygiene; education; protection; health and nutrition interventions
- **Take** measures to ensure that cash-based interventions are accessible and inclusive of persons with disabilities and their households, and do not increase protection risks

- **Contribute** to improved access by populations affected by humanitarian emergencies to quality and appropriate assistive technology (AT), including assistive products and related services
- **Ensure** a disability inclusive approach to mixed movements of people, including improving access to national service systems for refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants
- **Make** asylum procedures and durable solutions inclusive for persons with disabilities, including by reinforcing protection of persons with disabilities within asylum systems and resettlement submissions, and by determining (safe and dignified) conditions for return
- **Strengthen** the voice and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in decision-making and planning processes to strengthen health systems as part of preparedness and recovery efforts, promoting access and inclusion of persons with disabilities in health emergency response
- **Include** persons with disabilities in disaster mitigation and preparedness, including for sudden and slow onset disasters linked to climate change
- **Ensure** that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations have opportunities to participate in the peace continuum, including in conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction and peacebuilding
- **Protect** children and adults, especially women, girls and young persons with disabilities from violence, exploitation and abuse, including through inclusive child protection and safeguarding interventions and gender based violence risk mitigation, including sexual and reproductive health services

For a full list of suggested commitments and process for registering commitments, please visit:
[Global Disability Summit - Submit or Update a Commitment](#)

