

TERMS OF REFERENCE

IDA MECHANISM FOR DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

MARCH 28, 2022

1. Background and Rationale

While the primary mandate of the International Disability Alliance is to ensure inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in global processes and international mechanisms, IDA has increasingly recognized its potential role during wide-scale emergencies. Recent emergencies such as the global COVID-19 pandemic as well as war in Ukraine and other crisis have proved significant disproportionate impact of situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies. Furthermore, despite positive developments and admirable efforts, current emergency response mechanisms are yet to be successful in ensuring access to humanitarian assistance, evacuation, and other support for persons with disabilities on equal basis with others. In response to these challenges and in order to ensure inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations in emergency response, IDA is establishing an ad hoc mechanism herein after **Disability-Inclusive Emergency Response Mechanism (DER Mechanism)**.

2. Scope and Mandate

- A. DER Mechanism may be activated about any system-wide emergency announced by the United Nations Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (OCHA). All relevant UN agencies, civil society, organizations of persons with disabilities, governments, donors, academics, and other stakeholders will be invited to participate in consultation and exchange meetings organized by the DER Mechanism in response to the emergency at hand.
- B. The role of IDA DER Mechanism is to promote, support and complement activities carried out by different actors including the UN system, governments, INGOs, private foundations ETC in response to the emergency at hand.

3. Activities

Based on the gaps identified through consultations and exchange with involved stakeholders, in particular concerned organizations of persons with disabilities, IDA DER Mechanism will outline its activities in response to each emergency. The activities may include but not limited to the following:

- Channeling funding to programs and projects dedicated to ensuring protection and safety of persons with disabilities and their family members affected by the emergency concerned as well as projects and programs committed to mainstream persons with disabilities.
- Facilitate exchange of information and building partnerships among different stakeholders to maximize coordination and avoid duplication.

- Prepare and share rights-based advocacy messages and statements to ensure fulfilment of relevant international obligations by involved governments and other stakeholders.
- Document and publish human rights and humanitarian law violations by involved parties as well as failure to fulfill international standards by humanitarian actors against persons with disabilities affected by the emergency concerned.
- Organize capacity-building activities for humanitarian actors, emergency responders and involved organizations of persons with disabilities to enhance disability-inclusive response.
- Producing awareness-raising material for persons with disabilities affected by the emergency as well as useful documents for humanitarian actors in accessible formats and relevant languages.

4. Membership

IDA DER Mechanism is open to any State, UN agency, organization of persons with disabilities, international NGO, academic institutions, and private sector who is committed to rights and inclusion of persons with disabilities according to the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), international human rights law, and international humanitarian law.

5. Funding

Implementation of the activities decided by DER Mechanism is subject to availability of funding. IDA will maximize its efforts to support the activities and mobilize its partners to ensure expedited action.