

## IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

### Call for contributions to develop the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

#### Overview: IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

More than one billion people—approximately 15% of the global population—are persons with disabilities, 80% of whom live in poverty<sup>1</sup>. The report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit (2016) recognized that persons with disabilities are among the most marginalised in any crisis-affected community<sup>2</sup>. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) obligates States Parties to protect and ensure the safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters (Article 11), and to ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive (Article 16).

A [Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#) launched during the World Humanitarian Summit (May 2016) included a commitment to develop globally-endorsed UN system-wide guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities. In July 2016, the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) endorsed the establishment of a Task Team for a period of two years (January 2017 – December 2018) to develop IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

Despite the scope and severity of the risks faced by person with disabilities during crises, current programming fails to ensure their inclusion in terms of safety and protection, meaningful access to essential services, and full participation. In order to facilitate the systematic inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, the IASC Guidelines will:

- Elaborate on the steps required to provide equal access to humanitarian assistance;
- Create space for organisations of persons with disabilities (“DPOs”) to participate in humanitarian action and engage in decision-making processes impacting their lives; and
- Provide advice to humanitarian stakeholders on how to uphold humanitarian principles and leave no one behind

#### **How to Support the Development of the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities**

There are different ways to support the development of the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities:

- Joining the IASC Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities which meets (virtually) on a monthly basis;
- Disseminating and completing the global online survey to be launched early 2018;
- Participating in consultations being conducted in the Pacific, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Africa and Latin America regions;
- Contributing to thematic / expert / review group that will draft sectoral chapters in the guidelines

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<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization and the World Bank, *World Report on Disability* (2011)

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly, *One Humanity: Shared Responsibility, Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit A/70/90* (2 February 2016), available from <http://undocs.org/A/70/709>

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- Testing the draft guidelines with field staff and partners; and,
- Providing financial and technical resources to the guidelines development process.

### IASC Task Team on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

Participation in the IASC Task Team is open to all interested international and local humanitarian organisations, UN agencies, DPOs, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders with a commitment to inclusive humanitarian action for persons with disabilities. IASC Task Team members are encouraged to include discussions regarding the Guidelines' process and substance in their own specific programmes and events, and to report back to the IASC Task Team on their outcomes in monthly meetings.

For more information, including the Task Team Terms of Reference, work plan, financial requirements or to join the IASC Task Team, please visit the [IASC Task Team webpage](#).

## What kind of contributions are we looking for, and who can contribute?

### Contribution in-person/of staff time:

In the coming months, regional and online consultations will be organised to further identify content, structure and format of the guidelines. The primary audience for the guidelines is humanitarian organisations, including organisations of persons with disabilities.

The drafting of the Guidelines will require the support of experts from different areas and backgrounds, both to support the development of content, and to review the Guidelines during its various iterations of drafting.

### Who should contribute and how?

- **Program/project managers, sectoral experts:** We need your thoughts and insights on how you think the Guidelines could help you to design, implement, monitor and evaluate your humanitarian programs and ensure they are inclusive of persons with disabilities.
- **Humanitarian response teams, cluster coordinators, government relevant decision/policy making bodies:** You have an obligation to include persons with disabilities and we need your support to identify gaps and opportunities for including them in humanitarian response plans, fundraising and inter-sectoral coordination.
- **Technical experts/ advisors/ Areas of Reference:** We need your support to guarantee that the IASC Guidelines are feasible, relevant and coherent with your area of expertise, existing guidelines, standards and constraints.
- **Organisations of persons with disabilities and affected persons with disabilities:** We need your support to ensure the Guidelines will address your rights, participation and requirements adequately, and will respect and consider the diversity of persons with disabilities.
- **Humanitarian organisations and UN agencies with a focus on disability-specific response:** We need your support to ensure that your expertise and knowledge contribute to the development of the Guidelines.

### Sharing existing resources and cases studies:

The Guidelines will be developed based on **existing resources, lessons learned and good practices**. We need your support to identify and collect existing resources such as guidelines, guidance notes, standards, technical documents, research and studies, etc. that address inclusion of persons with

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disabilities in humanitarian action. These materials will be used as references to the writing. A resource section will be included in the Guidelines to allow users to obtain further information.

As much as possible, the Guidelines will use case studies/promising practices to illustrate the different sections. Therefore, it will be important that you share your challenging/successful experiences. Furthermore, some sectors/topics that have not yet built evidence on inclusion of persons with disabilities and collection of practices in these fields will be very important. This includes among others: cash transfer programming; social protection and safety nets; humanitarian/development nexus; etc. As the Guidelines also aim to cover different crisis contexts (urban, rural, slow onset, rapid onset, conflict, natural disaster, protracted crisis, etc.), it will be important to collect information and practices from a wide range of stakeholders around the world.

**Please share these resources and practices with us either during the regional consultation, through the online survey, or send them to [iascdisability@gmail.com](mailto:iascdisability@gmail.com)**

### Financial Contributions:

The IASC Task Team is still looking for additional funding to finalise the drafting and field testing of the Guidelines in line with its mandate.

While a number of donors have contributed financially to the work of the IASC Task Team, further funding is required.

**The IASC Task Team encourages support from humanitarian funding streams to support the development of the Guidelines.**

In addition, stakeholders are encouraged to include discussions regarding the Guidelines' process and substance in their own specific programmes and events, and to report back to the Task Team on their outcomes.

Please contact the IASC Task Team co-chairs for further information.

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