

IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

IASC Guidelines Development Work Plan

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 poverty¹. 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 community². 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??;
- Testing the draft guidelines with field staff and partners; and,

¹ World Health Organization and the World Bank, *World Report on Disability* (2011)

² 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>

IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

- 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](#).

How are the IASC guidelines for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action being developed?

The IASC Guidelines are being developed following a participative approach and with the support of an IASC Task Team. A number of steps have been defined and are described below. This information sheet should be read together with **the contribution information sheet**.

IASC Guidelines' Goal:

Creation and endorsement of Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidelines on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. The IASC guidelines will assist humanitarian actors and affected communities to coordinate, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate essential actions that foster the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities across all phases of humanitarian action.

Timeline for Development:

The work plan to develop the IASC guidelines is based on the set up of an IASC Task Team for a period of 2 years with the expected final IASC guidelines to be released in December 2018.

Process of the IASC Guidelines Development:

The IASC guidelines will be developed via a phased approach:

- **Preparatory Phase (One):** Formation of Task Team and Technical Sub-Groups (Q3, Q4 2016)
- **Phase Two:** Resource Mobilization and Human Resources (Q4 2016 Q1, Q2 2017)
- **Phase Three:** Data Collection, Mapping and Research (Q2, 2017)
- **Phase Four:** Development of Initial Draft Guidelines (Q3 2017 – Q3 2018)
- **Phase Five:** Final Review, Validation and Production (Q4 2018)

Desk Review:

As a first step the IASC Task Team commissioned a consultant to do a Desk Review that looked at humanitarian policies and legal frameworks with regard to inclusion of persons with disabilities and review a number of existing guidelines.

IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

Consultations:

In October 2017, a **global multi-stakeholder consultation** was held and provided key feedbacks in terms of outlines, structures, format and contents of the guidelines.

Please see consultation report here: [IASC website: Consultation Report](#)

At least three **regional consultations** will be organised in Asia, the Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, Africa and Latin America. The objectives of the regional consultations are:

- Validate the outline of the guidelines' recommendations made during the multi-stakeholder workshop in Geneva and revise if required.
- Review initial draft content and agree on priority areas/key components for the guidelines.
- Obtain feedback from stakeholders on the level of details required for the guidelines to be effective and relevant in the field.
- Collect existing information, promising practices and other relevant information from participants to support the content development of the guidelines.
- Identify organizations that can contribute to different components of the guidelines and set up expert groups to review the draft versions.

The regional consultations will be held in first quarter of 2018 and further details will be communicated via the IASC website: [IASC website](#)

A global **online survey** will be widely disseminated and open early 2018.

The online survey will contribute to the development of the IASC Guidelines for inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, by:

- Collecting information from a wide range of stakeholders on what will be the most useful structure for the guidelines to be used by humanitarian actors according to their sectors, role and responsibilities.
- Collect information on relevance and operationality of the such guidelines including format, contents and length.
- Identify challenges faced by humanitarian actors in including persons with disabilities and suggestion on how they can address those challenges.
- Identify challenges faced by persons with disabilities and their representatives to access protection and assistance, and to participate in humanitarian action on an equal basis as others.
- Identify sectors where inclusion of persons with disabilities hasn't been yet considered/documented (identification of gaps) or where resources are limited.
- Identify entry points for inclusion of persons with disabilities in line with the ever changing humanitarian sector (humanitarian / development nexus, accountability to affected population, etc.)
- identify cross-cutting issues
- Identify success stories, promising practices to be used in the development of the guidelines

Link to the survey will be available on: [IASC website](#)

IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

Guidelines Development:

Based on analysis of the results of the different consultations, the desk review and other information, a first draft of the guidelines will be developed. Experts group will support the development of the different chapters to ensure that the Guidelines could be operationalized and will have impacts on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. A review group will be involved in finalising the guidelines.

Global clusters, working groups and communities of practice will play a critical role in the guidelines development and endorsement process, providing feedback throughout and contributing to future implementation plans.

Time frame	Actions/Deliverables
Today to end of November 2017	Online Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of references for the survey • Develop the questionnaire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on ToR develop set of questions ○ Approved questions by the WG ○ Translation in different languages ○ Testing of the survey questions ○ Upload the questionnaire • Prepare dissemination strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify who and to whom to disseminate the survey ○ Share it widely <p>⇒ By early 2018</p>
December 1st to January 5th	Prepare draft 0 of the guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft 0 is available for face to face consultation and for comments from the TT • Draft 0 is ready early January
January to March 2018	Face to face consultation – review draft 0 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up thematic working group to draft sectoral contents including the information from the online survey and consultations. • Organize face to face consultation • Key informant interview • Consolidate consultation report • Draft 0 is reviewed and further developed, draft 1 will be ready by end of May 2018
March 2018 to May 2018	Prepare draft 1 incorporating all feedbacks from consultations and thematic working groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic working group received consolidated report from the online and face to face consultation. • Revision of each section based on the feedback. <p>⇒ Draft 1 consolidated by 31 May 2018</p>

IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

June to July 2018	Draft 1 is reviewed by a group of experts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identified expert group will review the draft 1 Comments/Feedback on Draft 1 received by July 31st
August to October 2018	Incorporate Comments/Feedback Received on Draft 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with Working Groups to incorporate feedback received• Draft 2 is ready by mid-September• As of mid-September, draft 2 of the Guidelines will be available online for voluntary field testing by Task Team members By end of October draft 2 comments will be closed
November 1st to November 15th, 2018	Incorporate comments/ feedbacks from draft 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final version will be ready by mid -November 2018 Final Guidelines by November 15th
November 15th to 30th, 2018	Editing and final design/layout and validation
December 2018	Printing early December Launch of the IASC Guidelines

Please see the **Contribution Info Sheet** if you are willing to be involved and contribute to the development of the IASC Guidelines for inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action or visit [IASC Task Team Website](#) for further information.