**IASC Task Team**

**Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action**

**Notes of monthly call - 14th February 2018**

# Pacific consultation – Fiji, 24-25th January

The Pacific consultation proceeded well. There were 60 participants including representatives from government, DPOs, mainstream INGOs, UN agencies and civil society. The discussions were based on the zero draft of the Guidelines. A report with detailed recommendations will be circulated to Task Team members before the MENA consultation.

# Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week – Geneva, 5-9th Februay

HNPW is a unique opportunity to engage with a wide range of stakeholders. During the week there were more than 1500 participants representing over 40 networks and attended over 100 events. Over a 100 member states also participated. There were a number of disability-related events.

During the event on the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, a number of states, including Ecuador, Luxembourg, Australia, UK and Italy, expressed their support for measures to include persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. During the event on the IASC Guidelines, feedback was collected on the recommendations from the Pacific Consultation.

During the inter-network day on 07 February, Valerie and a representative from a Nepali DPO hosted a series of short World Café session on involvement of DPOs in humanitarian action. Notably, there were participants in this event from areas of the humanitarian arena that are not usually involved in this topic – such as search and rescue actors.

Finally, the [Humanitarian Inclusion Standards](https://reliefweb.int/report/world/humanitarian-inclusion-standards-older-people-and-people-disabilities) were also launched at HNPW, and the Australian Mission, in cooperation with MoveAbility and Agitos Foundations, held a thematic presentation on disability inclusion through sports. .

# Online survey

The [online survey](http://humanitariandisabilityguidelines.org/) was launched at the HNPW. An updated information sheet will be circulated very soon. Valerie would like members to inform her about how the survey is shared in order to monitor its dessemination to ensure broad and balanced responses. The survey will be open until 10th March. This could be extended depending on the rate of response. Isabelle will disseminate the link to the Geneva “Group of Friends” of Member States.

# MENA consultation – Beirut, Lebanon, 6-7th March

AOPD is co-hosting this consultation at the Hotel Crowne Plaza in Beirut. There will be 50-60 participants. The invitation letter and logistics note will be sent out today. Visas have been acquired for those participants who have requested them in advance.

There will be good representation from protection and health sectors but members are invited to nominate additional participants from other sectors such as shelter, WASH and food security.

The methodology will be similar to the Pacific consultation with discussion based on a revised version of the zero draft. This draft will be shared next week. After the MENA consultation, support will be requested from Task Team members to identify relevant experts who can draft specific sections of the first full draft. Valerie will share more information about this shortly.

Two side events are being considered for the afternoon preceding the consultation on 5th March. The first will be an advocacy event focusing on the Syria crisis and the second will address disability data. More information will be shared soon with Task Team members.

# ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs segment

This [event](https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/humanitarian-affairs-segment) will take place in New York from 19-21st June. It consists of a high-level panel and member state plenaries and also around 20-25 side events. Slots for side events will be in high demand and preference will be given to side events hosted by members states and organisations who collaborate in groups. The theme for the event will be announced in March. The following themes are being considered: IHL, displacement, the humanitarian-development nexus, local action. Decisions about side events will be made during the first week of May.

There will also be a report from the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance that is currently being drafted and there will be a paragraph on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action also in that document. More information will be circulated soon.

# AOB

* **Other consultations**

Further consultations are planned for Latin America at the end of April/start of May and in Africa in mid-May. Some agencies have mobilised funds to contribute to these and other consultations. For example, WRC have secured funding from the Australian govement to support complementary consultations specifically on GBV in Asia and Africa. They are keen to collaborate with other members of the Task Team who may have resources to contribute to a consultation in Asia.

* **Feedback from MHPSS reference group**

The reference group has launched a working group of persons with disabilities and MHPSS. The first activity in the work plan is a desk review on existing literature on this topic. They will also identify of experts who can contribute to the consultations and drafting of the guidelines.

* **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be moved back one week to **14th March** to avoid a clash with the MENA consultation.