



Operational Summary: IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

Endorsed: July 2019

At a glance

The IASC guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with disabilities set out essential actions that humanitarian actors must take to effectively identify and respond to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities in humanitarian settings. The recommended actions in each chapter place persons with disabilities at the centre of humanitarian action, both as actors and as members of affected populations. They are specific to persons with disabilities and to the context of humanitarian action and build on existing and more general standards and guidelines. The guidelines were designed primarily for use by national, regional, and international humanitarian actors who are involved in policymaking, coordination, programming, and funding. More specifically this includes, governments, humanitarian leadership, clusters/sector leads, programmers in humanitarian and development organizations, donors, as well as local, national, and international organizations of persons with disabilities.

Key guidance for operational humanitarians

1. The guidelines provide a rights-based framework to approach the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, specifically through the of analysis of risks and systemic barriers faced by persons with disabilities, as well as 'must do' actions that are required if persons with disabilities are to be included in all phases of humanitarian action.
2. The guidelines discuss approaches to analysing risks and barriers to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action. Barriers faced by persons with disabilities are categorized under attitudinal, environmental and institutional. The guidelines offer general and sector-specific examples of barriers as well enablers to promote the inclusion of persons with disabilities.
3. Using a rights-based approach, the guidelines offer 'must do' actions that are required if persons with disabilities are to be included successfully in all phases of humanitarian action and need to be taken by every stakeholder in every sector and all contexts. The actions are broadly categorized as follows: (a) promote meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, (b) remove barriers, (c) empower persons with disabilities and support them develop their capacities, and (d) disaggregate data for monitoring inclusion. Sector-specific guidance elaborates on how these actions can be implemented.
4. Each sector chapter includes key terms relevant to disability inclusion, standards and guidelines, 'must-do' actions, recommended actions and tools and resources to help stakeholder practically include persons with disabilities in humanitarian responses.

What does the full Framework offer?

The opening chapters of the guidelines provide an explanation of a rights-based approach to the inclusion of people with disabilities. There are chapters that discuss cross-cutting topics and approaches to programming, as well as the roles and responsibilities of different humanitarian stakeholders across all stages, including preparedness, needs assessment, strategic response planning, resource mobilization, implementation and monitoring, evaluation, coordination, and information management. The sector-specific chapters provides practical solutions on the application of principles and cross-cutting topics, with a focus on 'must-do' actions.

The full IASC product is available at <https://iasc.ch/iasc-disability-guidelines>

For support using this product, or to provide feedback on the product or this summary, contact the IASC secretariat at: iasccorrespondence@un.org.

Summary drafted by the Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action