Annex D. Principles that Inform Humanitarian Action Inclusive of Persons with Disabilities

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| **General Principles of the CRPD and Their Relevance to Humanitarian Action:** |
| **Dignity, autonomy & independence**: Humanitarian workers must consider the impact of the emergency and the response on the physical, psychological, emotional, and social well-being of persons with disabilities and tailor responses to advance dignity, autonomy including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence, to the greatest extent possible. |
| **Non-discrimination & equality:** Emergencies often magnify existing differences and reinforce the marginalization of persons already at risk of discrimination, including persons with disabilities. Humanitarians must identify and monitor disability discrimination, power imbalances, and address them proactively in the response. Ensuring non-discrimination and equality for persons with disabilities requires the provision of reasonable accommodation, where required and not representing an undue burden. |
| **Participation and inclusion**: Humanitarian workers must ensure that persons with disabilities are provided with meaningful, accessible opportunities to participate at all possible stages of an emergency preparedness and response. Persons with disabilities, reflecting the diversity of the disability community as well as age and different perspectives, should be supported to express their views in safety, and these views should be regarded with respect and taken seriously. Humanitarian workers must be aware of their own beliefs and assumptions about disability and should enable participation and communication, share power in decision making, and be sensitive to how such participation can facilitate or undermine social roles and power relations. |
| **Respect for difference:** Humanitarian workers must, in their response, show respect for difference and recognize that disability is part of human diversity and humanity and that, as such, humanitarian response must be tailored to the discrete needs of an individual with a disability. |
| **Equality of opportunity:** Humanitarian workers must ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access protection and assistance on an equal basis with others in need in humanitarian response. Having an equality opportunity to access protection and assistance may require that specific measures are taken to ensure such access for persons with disabilities. |
| **Accessibility:** Humanitarian workers should adhere to the principles of accessibility in the design, monitoring, and adjustment of all humanitarian programmes and interventions. Measures taken to ensure accessibility in humanitarian response should include, among other things, accessibility in relation to buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces, information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services. |
| **Gender equality:** Humanitarian workers must ensure that the interests, needs and priorities of women and girls and men and boys with disabilities are respected in humanitarian action. |
| **Respect for evolving capacities of children**: Where humanitarians take decisions regarding individual children with disabilities, agreed procedural safeguards should be implemented to ensure this principle is upheld. Children with disabilities should be given the opportunity to express their views and provided the support to do so, where needed. |