

International Disability Alliance

Recommendation to Include a Stand-Alone Paragraph on Refugees with Disabilities in the Global Compact on Refugees

The International Disability Alliance strongly urges the inclusion of a stand-alone paragraph on refugees with disabilities in the Global Compact on Refugees, to ensure that refugees with disabilities are not left behind in the development, implementation and monitoring of comprehensive refugee response.

Persons with disabilities are among the most marginalized in any crisis-affected community¹. Over-represented among those living in poverty², an estimated 9.3 million persons with disabilities are forcibly displaced as the result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations³, in addition to climate-induced migration. Multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination further exacerbate the situation of persons with disabilities, contributing to the violation of their rights.

The lack of disaggregated data, and persistent omission from early warning and preparedness systems, reception, admission, identification and registration processes compound the exclusion of refugees and migrants with disabilities in preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation efforts addressing the situation of the global refugee and migrant populations.

In the development of inclusive and comprehensive refugee response, the inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the needs assessment, design, implementation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of preparedness and response programmes and policies is crucial. Drawing from the leadership, skills, experience and expertise of persons with disabilities and their active participation in decision-making and planning processes, including in appropriate coordination mechanisms, is an essential prerequisite to successfully reshape humanitarian aid and emergency response, including comprehensive refugee response.

RECOMMENDED PARAGRAPH:

Stand-alone paragraph on persons with disabilities under Section III, B (2): Meeting Needs and Supporting Communities

NEW Persons with disabilities are recognized as one of the most-marginalized populations in conflict, disaster and peacetime settings, and are often overlooked, especially in the early phases of humanitarian emergencies. Persons with disabilities, in particular women, children and older persons with disabilities, are particularly exposed to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, exploitation, violence and sexual and gender-based violence, and may be excluded from support and services compared to persons without disabilities.

In line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the 2030 Agenda, States and relevant stakeholders will take all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including the adoption and implementation of inclusive and accessible policies and programmes and promotion of the full and meaningful participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the development of and decision-making processes relating to such measures. This will include measures to:

¹ General Assembly, *One Humanity: Shared Responsibility*, Report of the Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit A/70/90 (2 February 2016), available from undocs.org/A/70/709

² World Health Organization and the World Bank, *World Report on Disability* (2011) http://www.who.int/disabilities/world_report/2011/report.pdf

³ Women's Refugee Commission, *Refugees with Disabilities Fact Sheet* (2014) <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/disabilities/disabilities-fact-sheet>

- Promote the meaningful participation and leadership of persons with disabilities through the close consultation and active involvement of persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in the development and implementation of inclusive and universally accessible response, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction approaches
- Strengthen efforts to collect, analyze and disseminate data disaggregated by sex, age and disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, including at the national, subnational and local levels, utilizing the Washington Group Short Set of Questions on Disability and the Washington Group-UNICEF Module on Child Functioning where relevant
- Strengthen international coordination so as to strengthen resilience, better mitigate risks and support pathways towards recovery and development, including during humanitarian emergencies, that are inclusive of persons with disabilities
- Ensure that early-warning and preparedness systems, reception and admission and registration and documentation practices are inclusive of and accessible for all persons with disabilities, including targeted measures to reach refugees with disabilities where necessary
- Ensure that policies and programmes for refugees, including education, jobs and livelihoods, health, habitation, food security and nutrition and civil registries are inclusive of and accessible for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others

The International Disability Alliance is a network of eight global and six regional organizations of persons with disabilities and their families, representing over 1,100 organizations of persons with disabilities worldwide. The Alliance works to promote the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.