



KEY MESSAGES ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION: 2026 CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CRPD

This document is intended to support members of the Disability Reference Group (DRG) to make interventions at the Conference of States Parties (CoSP) to the CRPD, to ensure that persons with disabilities impacted by humanitarian emergencies are not left behind in efforts to promote the CRPD. The document assumes that discussions at CoSP will already be addressing core issues related to the rights of persons with disabilities and aims to bring issues specific to humanitarian contexts into broader discussions, including on development, Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change.

Highlight the impact of humanitarian emergencies on persons with disabilities

- In 2026, there are 239 million people in need of humanitarian assistance (reference <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/global-humanitarian-overview-2026-enesfr>) , including an estimated 38,240,000 (nearly 40 million) persons with disabilities. These people must not be forgotten as we work to promote the rights of persons with disabilities globally.
- Persons with disabilities who are affected by humanitarian emergencies may face multiple additional barriers that present heightened risks to their survival and wellbeing, including:
 - Obstacles to safe evacuation, due to inaccessible communication and/ or transport
 - Destruction of accessible infrastructure, including transport
 - Loss of access to support services, due to closure, fleeing of staff and lack of options for safe movement
 - Loss of or damage to assistive devices and/or medical supplies
 - Separation from support persons and from accessible, familiar environments
 - Inaccessible humanitarian assistance

Bring attention to the risks related to humanitarian funding cuts and humanitarian reforms

- Persons with disabilities who are affected by humanitarian emergencies are already facing higher levels of risk and human rights abuses. The significant cuts in humanitarian funding are expected to impact disproportionately on persons with disabilities and deepen these disparities (see the recent report by the Disability Reference Group on [the impact of funding cuts](#))
- The series of humanitarian reforms currently underway, the Humanitarian Reset, has the potential to either reinforce recent gains made on disability inclusion or to step back these gains and deepen exclusion of persons with disabilities from humanitarian action (see the recent report from the Disability Reference Group on a [meeting between OCHA, the IASC Secretariat and OPDs on the Humanitarian Reset](#))



Ask about inclusive participation

- How were persons with disabilities and OPDs from humanitarian contexts engaged in this work/ represented in this initiative?
- Did displaced populations (refugees and internally displaced populations) participate in this initiative?

Prompt reflection on relevance to humanitarian settings

- Has this (study, tool, approach...) been applied in humanitarian contexts?
- What did you learn about how humanitarian emergencies affected (the findings of this research, implementation of this tool/ approach....)?

Emphasize the obligations of duty bearers to all persons with disabilities

- I would like to remind us that these rights apply to all persons with disabilities in (*country X*), including migrants, refugees and internally displaced people.
- How is (*country X*) ensuring that persons with disabilities who are at heightened risk, including refugees, stateless persons, internally displaced persons, people living in besieged areas and undocumented migrants are protected from rights violations under the CRPD?

Propose engagement of humanitarian actors

- In order to maximize the impact of this (research, tool, approach), I'd like to suggest engagement with key humanitarian actors in next steps, such as age and disability working groups, Humanitarian Country Teams, Humanitarian Coordinators (*adjust depending on the topic*).

Highlight normative frameworks specific to humanitarian contexts

- How can we ensure that in these efforts to promote / monitor implementation of the CRPD, there are specific efforts directed to implementation of article 11, on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies?
- What opportunities are there in (*country X*) to strengthen implementation of Security Council Resolution 2475 on protection of persons with disabilities in armed conflict?

Point to resources that can be used

- As this work is initiated/ rolled out, I'd like to suggest it be guided by the [IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#) , in humanitarian contexts, including large scale forced displacement situations and climate emergencies.
- I would like to highlight that the [Disability Reference Group](#) has a number of resources that could be useful for initiating/ rolling out this work in humanitarian contexts.