Monthly Newsletter | Issue 65

DRG NEWSLETTER - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2026

Welcome to the DRG Monthly Newsletter!



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Dear DRG Members,

Welcome to the August–September edition of the DRG newsletter. Thank you, as always, to everyone who sent in contributions.

We're pleased to share the DRG's new report, Funding Cuts and Policy Shifts: Impacts on Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Action. Many of you took part in

the survey, focus group discussions and interviews and we learned that 88% of respondents say their disability inclusion work has been affected, with OPDs being being hit hardest and soonest. The report warns that, without deliberate safeguards, parts of the Humanitarian Reset could slow down or reverse progress on inclusion. These findings come as the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Ms. Heba Hagrass, publishes her new thematic report on inclusive humanitarian assistance and safeguards for the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of current humanitarian reform processes. Together, the two reports make an important point. Disability inclusion is not an optional extra to drop when budgets shrink. It is a matter of rights, grounded in the CRPD, including Article 11 on situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies.

This month's edition of the DRG newsletter includes an information brief from the National Assembly of People with Disabilities of Ukraine, showing concretely the important role of OPDs as actors in humanitarian response. It also covers CERF's US$10 million allocation for persons with disabilities in 12 underfunded crises, with US$4 million in complementary funding from the UN Global Disability Fund. From the local level, it features a needs assessment in IDP camps in Baidoa, Somalia, and an inclusive tree-planting campaign in Ethiopia. It also includes an article from Sightsavers on climate-resilient education and an advocacy toolkit for the new disasters treaty.

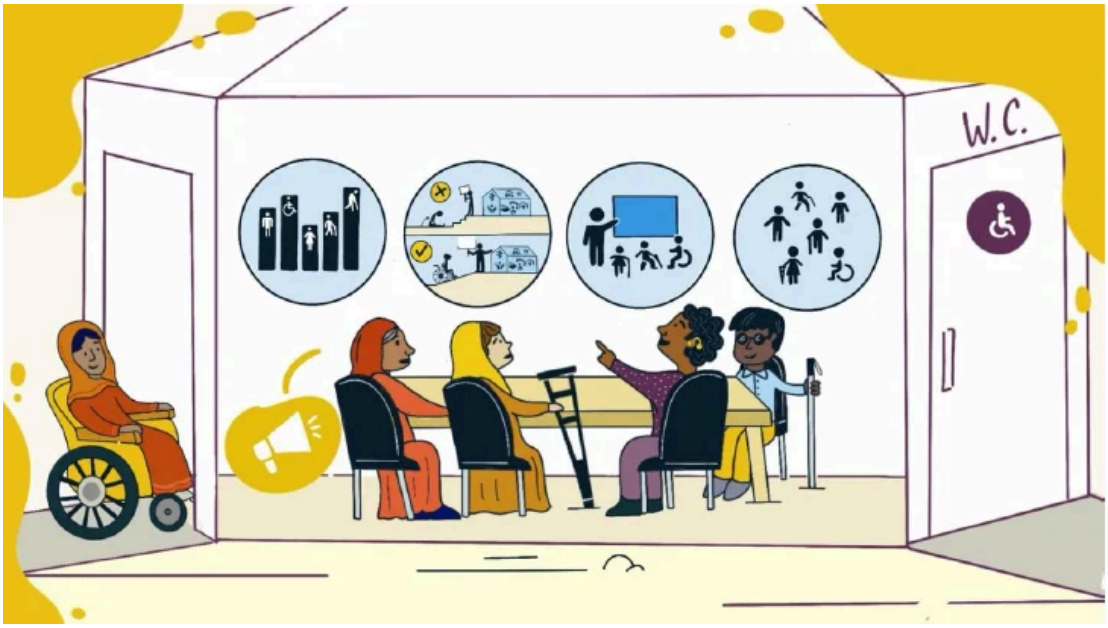
This edition showcases the importance of local and global action to protect the gains made on inclusion of persons with disabilities in a complex and challenging humanitarian landscape.

Kindest Regards,

Nurten Yilmaz (UNICEF)
Ulrike Last (Humanity & Inclusion)
Gordon Rattray (International Disability Alliance)

UPDATES FROM THE DRG

DRG REPORT: FUNDING CUTS AND POLICY SHIFTS: IMPACTS ON DISABILITY INCLUSIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION



With many thanks to those of you who contributed through the survey, focus group discussions and key informant interviews, **we are pleased to share the report of the DRG's review of the Impact of funding cuts and policy shifts** which can be accessed on the **DRG website here.** This report presents what we have heard from our members on how their work on disability inclusive humanitarian action is being affected, and the impacts for persons with disabilities. The report is accompanied by a **2-page briefing note summarizing the key findings and recommendations**.

Key findings include:

- While disability inclusion hasn't been specifically targeted in the funding cuts, it is disproportionately impacted
- OPDs and local NGOs are absorbing the deepest impact
- Dedicated funding and expertise act as protective factors when funding is cut
- Without specific safeguards, the Humanitarian Reset risks a backsliding in progress made over recent years

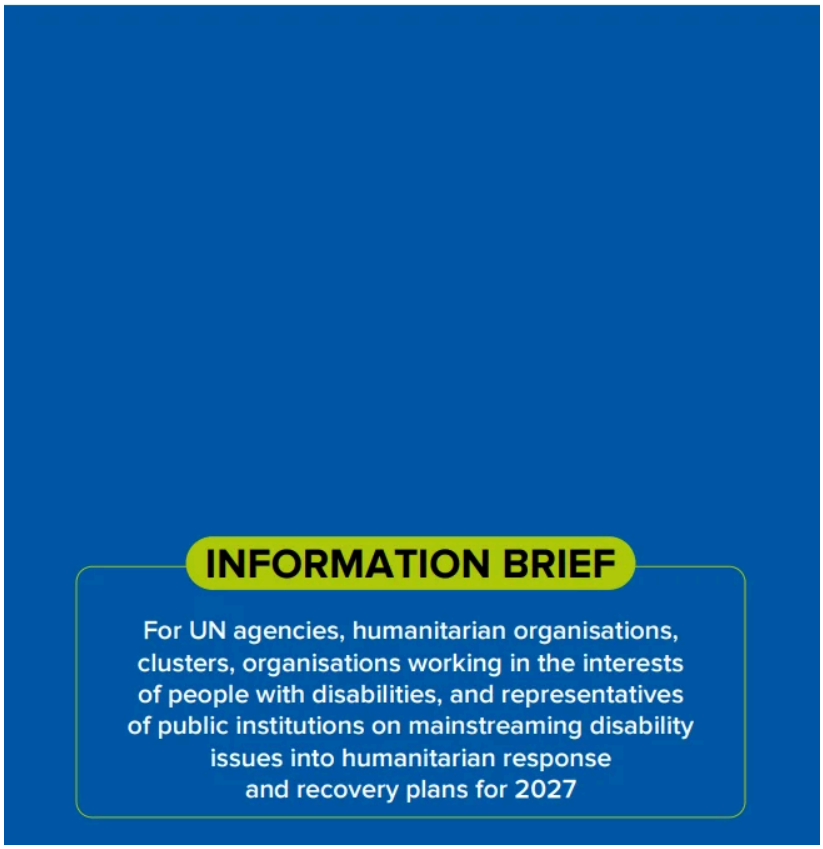
Once we have completed the stocktake of the IASC Guidelines on inclusion of persons with disabilities, we will be developing a plan for dissemination of both this report and the stocktake findings. In the meantime, we encourage you to share these resources among your networks.

Access the Report here

UPDATES FROM DRG MEMBERS

MAINSTREAMING DISABILITY IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLANS FOR 2027

HAIY National Assembly of People with Disabilities of Ukraine | All-Ukrainian Public Association



by NAPD

The National Assembly of People with Disabilities of Ukraine has prepared an Information Brief based on consultations with **1,832 people from different regions of Ukraine**, including people with disabilities, families raising children with disabilities, older people, internally displaced persons, war-affected civilians, and veterans.

The publication presents key humanitarian priorities for 2027, identifies the main barriers people face in accessing assistance, and provides practical recommendations for humanitarian actors, UN agencies, clusters, civil society organisations, and public institutions.

Purpose: to promote the fullest possible consideration of the needs of people with disabilities when planning humanitarian assistance for 2027 and to improve the effectiveness of protection and emergency response in the context of ongoing hostilities.

Access the information brief here

A MILLIMETRE FROM DEATH: HOW A FRAGMENT OF A CLUSTER MUNITION CHANGED HER LIFE, BUT DID NOT DAMPEN HER DESIRE TO HELP PEOPLE

by The League of Strong



Oksana Kornieva: Life with a fragment of a Russian shell

Read the story of of Oksana Kornieva, a paramedic from Donetsk region who was injured by cluster munition fragments and acquired a disability as a result of the war. Oksana received support through the League of the Strong's Emergency Response programme. Her story shows how timely and practical assistance can help people with disabilities affected by the war regain greater independence in their everyday lives.

"*Before the full-scale invasion, Oksana Kornieva had worked for over twenty years as an ambulance paramedic in a small town in the Donetsk region, not far from the administrative border with the*

Luhansk region. She gave birth to two daughters there. Life went on as normal until war came to their home. The paramedic, who was used to saving others, was forced to prioritise the safety of her own family. So they moved to another region of Ukraine."

Read the story here

INCLUSIVE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND SAFEGUARDS FOR THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF CURRENT HUMANITARIAN REFORM PROCESSES

by OHCHR

On behalf of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, Ms. Heba Hagrass, it is a pleasure to share her new thematic report on "**Inclusive humanitarian assistance and safeguards for the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of current humanitarian reform processes**" (A/81/270), which can be found here in all UN official languages.

The Special Rapporteur will be presenting the report to the 3rd Committee of the UN General Assembly on 23 October 2026.

We would like to especially thank those of you who provided valuable contributions to the call for inputs for this report. They are all now published here, including the **input from the DRG**.

Access the report here

UN RELEASES $160 MILLION TO SAVE LIVES IN 12 UNDERFUNDED

HUMANITARIAN CRISES

by GDF and CERF

The United Nations allocated US$160 million from the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** to support life-saving assistance in 12 of the world's most underfunded humanitarian crises across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. CERF is the UN's global emergency fund managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). This allocation is part of a wider push to reach 87 million people facing the most severe humanitarian needs this year.

The allocation also includes $10 million to address the urgent needs of people with disabilities in the 12 crises and make humanitarian assistance more accessible and inclusive. CERF is partnering with the **UN Global Disability Fund**, which will provide up to $4 million in complementary funding and technical support through its Inclusion Catalyst Hub, including to strengthen the capacity and participation of local organizations of persons with disabilities in humanitarian response.

Of the new allocation, $150 million will support life-saving responses in Afghanistan ($18 million), Burkina Faso ($10 million), Cameroon ($6 million), Chad ($9 million), Cuba ($4 million), Mali ($10 million), Niger ($10 million), the Occupied Palestinian Territory ($18 million), Somalia ($16 million), South Sudan ($15 million), Sudan ($16 million) and Yemen ($18 million).

Access the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** brief **here**, and **UN Global Disability Fund** brief **here** created for DRG members October Monthly call.

More information here

ADVOCACY TOOLKIT FOR NEW UN CONVENTION

by Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network

As negotiations continue on the new Treaty on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters (PPED), there is an important opportunity to make disability inclusion a clear legal requirement.

Progress remains too slow: many early warning systems are inaccessible, people with disabilities are often excluded from decision-making, and disability data is not consistently collected or used.

To support advocacy, the Thematic Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action and the Asia-Pacific Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DiDRRN) have developed a Disability Inclusion Advocacy Toolkit.

The toolkit includes key messages, Easy Read resources, a plain-language PPED summary, case studies, social media graphics and a template letter to governments.

We encourage OPDs, civil society and allies to use and share these resources to help ensure disability inclusion is embedded in the final Treaty.

Access the toolkit here

Reports and Stories from the Local Level

This section brings together stories and reports from the DRG members at local level, highlighting their work on strengthening disability inclusion in humanitarian action and ensuring no one is left behind.



Needs Assessments Report by ADRDO

Persons with Disabilities Living in Three IDP Camps in Baidoa, South West Somalia

The Arladi Disability Rights and Development Organization (ADRDO), a member of the Somali Disability Network (SDN) in South West State, has conducted a disability needs assessment



IHO Ethiopia Report

Green Fingerprint Initiative

Inclusive Humanitarian Organization (IHO Ethiopia) is pleased to share our recent Inclusive Green Fingerprint – Green Legacy Campaign. The campaign was successfully implemented in Yirgalem and Aleta Wondo, Sidama Region, bringing together more than 500 participants, including children with disabilities and their families,

among persons with disabilities living in IDP camps.

The assessment focused on the key challenges faced by persons with disabilities, particularly livelihoods, living conditions, shelter, water, and food security. It was also conducted in line with our commitment to Inclusive Food Security (IFS) and the principle of ensuring that persons with disabilities are meaningfully included in humanitarian and food security programming.

along with schools, government representatives, agricultural professionals, community members, and other stakeholders.

The initiative demonstrates how environmental protection, climate-change adaptation, and Green Legacy activities can be made inclusive and accessible to children with disabilities and other vulnerable groups..

ADRDO Report

IHO Report

SCALING CLIMATE-RESILIENT EDUCATION: PUTTING DISABILITY INCLUSION AT THE HEART OF SECTOR ADAPTATION



by Sightsavers

Climate change is no longer a distant threat or an abstract statistic; it is a current reality fundamentally reshaping the landscape of global education.

While the climate crisis affects every child, its impact is highly inequitable. For millions of learners with disabilities living in particularly climate-vulnerable regions, a

single extreme weather event – a flood, a cyclone or a prolonged heatwave – frequently marks the permanent end of their education.

In an article for Bond, Hamish Higginson, global technical lead for inclusive education at Sightsavers, explains why climate-resilient education must put disability inclusion at its core.

Drawing on evidence from climate-vulnerable regions, Hamish highlights the barriers children with disabilities face during extreme weather events and shows what inclusive climate action looks like in practice, from universal design in classrooms to home-based learning during floods.

Read the article here

SEEKING CONNECTIONS ON DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE ECDIE

A DRG member is developing a policy brief on disability-inclusive Early Childhood Development in Emergencies (ECDiE). She is keen to speak with DRG members who are implementing disability-inclusive ECDiE programs or have helped shape related policy. If you are working on this theme please reach out to Suzanne Zuidema, International Educational Development Specialist with expertise in Disability Inclusion, via email sbzuidema241@gmail.com or Linkedin.

Send us your job opportunities!

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Please share any feedback you may have on the content and format of this Newsletter with us. You can send any material you want to be included in the next

issues of the Newsletter by the last Monday of the month via email info@disabilityreferencegroup.org.

