

DRG NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2026

Welcome to the DRG Monthly Newsletter!



[@Boby_Dimas](#)

Dear DRG Members,

Our monthly newsletter starts off by sharing some updates on the work of the DRG with you, in particular the [DRG Workplan](#) and the [Report](#) of our annual meeting, reflecting on the past five years and looking ahead.

It continues by highlighting snapshots on interesting conversations ahead, including a discussion on disability prevalence, hosted by the Centre for Inclusive Policies (CIP) tomorrow. You will also find some recent updates on how to report and check out the progress made on the commitments from the Global Disability Summit 2025. Finally, the Conference of State Parties on the CRPD (COSP) is around the corner, taking place in June in NY. Hence, we put together a section on what is known already to take place there around inclusive humanitarian action.

Kindest Regards,

Kirstin Lange (UNICEF)

Ulrike Last (Humanity & Inclusion)

Gordon Rattray (International Disability Alliance)

UPDATE FROM THE DRG

DRG DRAFT WORK PLAN 2026 - 2027

We are pleased to share the final [DRG work plan for 2026-2027](#). This workplan serves as living document to guide our collaborative efforts to strengthen inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action and ensuring everyone has a voice and a role in shaping responsive, inclusive humanitarian efforts. It also responds to the humanitarian reset and broader shifts in the humanitarian system and reflects the role of the DRG as a Community of Practice of the IASC.

[Access DRG work plan here](#)

DRG ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The first-ever DRG online annual meeting on 19 March 2026 marked five years of progress in building a global network for disability-inclusive humanitarian action, now an IASC Community of Practice, with over 676 members (including 23% OPDs; 22% local/national actors). During the meeting members discussed, shared and reviewed achievements – regular meetings and newsletters; a resource library; two active working groups: WS1 on operationalizing guidance, and WS3 on supporting

participation and leadership of OPDs; online learning modules (with an iData module in development); learning exchanges; joint advocacies, and identified strategic priorities for the DRG in the context of the humanitarian reset. In 2026 the DRG will conduct a Stocktake of IASC Guidelines implementation to assess progress and remaining gaps on disability inclusion.

This annual meeting represented a key moment for the DRG membership to come together as a collective and co-create a way forward at this challenging time.

[Access the DRG Annual Meeting Report](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CURRENT CALLS

WHY DO DISABILITY PREVALENCE ESTIMATES VARY? UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENCES ACROSS DATA SETS

by CIP

We are pleased to invite you to this webinar **sponsored by the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (WG) and the Center for Inclusive Policy (CIP) and hosted by CIP**, which will explore **why disability prevalence estimates vary across data sources and what these differences mean for interpreting and using disability data**.

When: Tuesday, May 5th, 8:00 EDT

Where: Zoom [registration here](#)

Duration: 1 hour 15 minutes (75 minutes)

The session will first explain how definitions of disability, question design and data collection methods influence who is identified as having disabilities. It will then present examples of prevalence estimates across data sources and illustrate how the choice of a data source can affect disaggregation of outcome measures by disability status. It will conclude with a panel discussion focused on practical guidance for data users including how to select appropriate data sources, interpret differences across datasets and communicate about variations in disability prevalence estimates.

The webinar will be conducted in **English**, and will be **recorded and made available after the event**. **International Sign (IS) interpretation and live captioning** will be provided. **Please complete this short form** to confirm your participation.

For any questions, you may contact us at office@inclusive-policy.org or paulina.ricci@inclusive-policy.org.

Register here

GDS 2022 AND 2025 REPORTING ON COMMITMENTS IS NOW OPEN

by GDS



We thank you for making your commitments at the Global Disability Summit (GDS). With over 2,200 commitments made across 2022 and 2025, we invite you to reflect on your progress and report on your commitments.

We are pleased to inform you that the reporting process is now open for commitments from both 2022 and 2025. You can access the portal and

begin submitting your updates [here](#).

Our reporting process is designed to capture real experiences, so whether your progress is partial or still evolving, all of it matters. We also encourage you to share any challenges encountered along the way, as these insights are equally valuable to us. Even if there has been no progress, it is equally valuable to understand the barriers you may be facing.

To support you through this process, we have introduced a new [Help](#) section on the platform. Here, you will find step-by-step 'how to' guides to assist with reporting and navigating the portal. A series of short video tutorials will also be available in this section, each focusing on a specific action to make the process easier to follow.

Please note that the reporting on the implementation of the Amman Berlin Declaration will be conducted through a separate process due to methodological and technical reasons. Information about the Amman-Berlin Declaration can be found on the GDS website: [Amman-Berlin Declaration - Global Disability Summit](#).

We look forward to learning from your progress and experiences.

[Access the commitment portal here](#)

PRESENTING AT THE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM FOR THE COSP19 - 8 JUNE 2026

by IDA

Background

The 19th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP19) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 11 June 2026. The [Civil Society Coordination Mechanism](#) (CSCM), which is facilitated by the [International Disability Alliance](#), hosts a Civil Society Forum (CSF), as an addition to the COSP, as an opportunity to amplify the voice and facilitate adequate and active participation of persons with disabilities. This year, the CSF will be held on Monday 8 June.

The Civil Society Forum and Format

The Civil Society Forum will adopt a “People’s Assembly” format. Following a brief opening segment, four substantive sessions will be convened, each focused on a specific theme. Three sessions will align with the sub themes of COSP, while the fourth will address the overarching theme of the 20th anniversary of the CRPD, incorporating broader United Nations reform processes.

Each session will begin with the moderator providing a concise overview of the topic. The moderator will then invite pre-selected organizations (identified through *this* open call for presentations) to deliver a three-minute statement, presentation, or call to action relevant to the session theme. The final 15 minutes of each session will be reserved for interventions from the floor. These contributions will be limited to one-minute reflections directly related to the discussion.

At the conclusion of the Forum, a Civil Society statement will be issued, reflecting the key themes and outcomes of the day's discussions. The language of the Civil Society Forum will be in English only. International Sign and Captioning will be provided.

Session 1: 20 Years of the CRPD: Gains, Gaps and the Future in a Reforming UN

Session 2: Creating a world free from exploitation, violence and abuse for all persons with disabilities

Session 3: Resilient societies: strengthening care and support systems to ensure the empowerment, autonomy and independence of all persons with disabilities

Session 4: From participation to representation: enhancing accessible civic engagement, leadership and advocacy in political and public life.

Before applying

✓ Read the [background papers](#) to ensure compliance! Your presentation does not need to react to all the guiding questions for the session you are applying for but should provide you with some guidance on how to use your 3 minutes - you may wish to cover only one or two questions, going into detail.

✓ Review [agenda for the day](#) (scroll down the document).

✓ If you already registered to the COSP ([more info on this page](#)), you do not need to register for this event, too. But please ensure you have registered to the COSP directly; we cannot support you with this.

Ready to apply?

▶ [Use the form](#) to indicate your interest to make a presentation / statement under one of the four sessions. All presentations should be made in person (there is no remote participation). Deadline to complete the form is: **Friday 29 May 2026**. If you are selected to speak, we will inform you by the beginning of June.

▶ If you are attending the COSP in person and want to know who else is attending and be connected with other civil society organisations, [share your details here!](#) (this is NOT registration for the COSP or the Forum)

▶ Questions, contact Talin Aavades: tavades@ida-secretariat.org.

Present at the Civil Society Forum form

GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DRG

VIEW ALL NEWSLETTERS

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.

