



IASC Guideline Workshop

The Dutch Relief Alliance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
& Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development

Date: 09.01.2020

Location: Stichting Vluchteling, The Hague

Present:

DRA: Crisis Coordinator (Christa Jacobs) & Joint Response leads
MFA – DSH: Hans van den Hoogen & Lars Faber
DCDD: Coordinator (Lieke Scheewe), Intern (Gerlinde Schmidt),
Light for the World (Paulien Bruijn), Dorcas (Annet Lukkien)

Guest speaker:

Ricardo Pla Cordero (IRC)

Welcome, by DRA crisis coordinator / Christa Jacobs

DRA has it in its Annual Plan to take further steps on inclusive humanitarian aid, with a special focus on gender and disability. We are here together as Joint Response leads, to learn and discuss what the new IASC disability guidelines could mean for us.

What does it mean: disability inclusion in humanitarian action? by DCDD / Lieke Scheewe

Disability (= impairment x barriers), as defined by the UN in the [CRPD](#):

“Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

Hence, a disability (= impairment x barriers) emerges through a lack of policies for ‘reasonable accommodation’ and barriers such as negative attitudes, discriminatory laws, the built environment and inaccessible communication. When writing or talking about disability, we take a rights-based approach and use the terminology that is recognized by UN bodies and the CRPD, to appropriately respect and recognize people with a disability.

With the CRPD now in place, we can see today a shift from a medical to a **rights based approach**, from an individual to a collective response. All NGOs and authorities carry the responsibility to open up projects, services, remove barriers and involve people with a disability in their decision making, to ensure equal access and participation.

A cornerstone of **inclusion** is the [ACAP framework](#), which stands for: Access, Communication, Attitude and Participation. The guidelines and tools of ACAP are designed for development practitioners and policy makers, including people working in disaster risk reduction and emergency relief/response, who wish to make their programs and activities more inclusive of people from all marginalized and vulnerable groups.

In 2017/2018 the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) committed to implement the IASC guidelines, following their earlier endorsement of the Humanitarian Disability Charter at the WHS. Disability inclusion has also explicitly been mentioned in MFA’ humanitarian aid policy 2019 “People First”. In November 2019 MFA initiated a dialogue with DRA on disability inclusion, together with DCDD. The workshop today is a follow-up on this, and is meant to give DRA joint response leads an introduction into the new IASC disability guidelines, plus to define further follow-up actions on inclusion.

What are the new IASC disability guidelines about? How should they be used? By IRC / Ricardo Pla Cordero (via skype)

[The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disability in Humanitarian Actions](#) (IASC guidelines) have been developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Task Team (co-chaired by IDA representing the view of people with disabilities, UNICEF representing the UN view, HI representing the civil society) on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, through a consultative, participatory and inclusive process. Reflecting the input of more than 600 stakeholders across the disability, humanitarian and development sectors and providing guiding principles for better inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

The IASC guidelines were developed to offer essential actions and sector specific advice to any situation in humanitarian aid/response with the objective of guidance, capacity, accountability and participation in order to effectively identify and respond to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities who are most at risk of being left behind in humanitarian settings. Since in times of crisis and humanitarian emergencies people with disabilities face several risks (such as violence, deterioration of health, exclusion and abandonment), that can be counteracted through adequate responses taken by organizations in the field.

Diagram 1 | The four objectives of the guidelines



The chapters of the guidelines focus on different topics:

1-10 Chapter: Cross cutting issues / response options

3 Chapter: Offers priorities on where to start

11-18 Chapter: sector specific advice (food, camp coordination, livelihood, health, education)

19 Annexes: how to provide reasonable accommodation and tools on disaggregated data

How can we use these guidelines?

The IASC Reference Group is preparing a work plan with the **roll-out** of the guidelines, e.g. support / trainings in countries. Humanitarian agencies can also make use of the great **network** of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities across all continents who have been involved in the development of the guidelines. Contact IASC Reference Group for more info.

- **Case studies:**

The ISAC guidelines were released together with a [series of case studies](#) for practical inspiration.

- **Advocacy:**

Advocacy with governments and UN agencies on the situation on people with disability

- **Pilots:**

WRC put a pilot on guidelines in 3 different countries into place (coordination, participation, monitoring and evaluation) with Organisations of Persons with Disabilities.

- **Trainings:**

E.g. Bridge SDGs training on CRPD Article II (resources needed); remote access training; an app on GBV and disability.

- **Tool development:**

Client-Responsive Programming: When we design and implement in a way that takes into account the views of our clients. The [Washington Group](#) developed a short set of questions designed to collect data on disability-related needs. UNICEF is working on access on Education (not available yet).

Case 1: Disability Inclusion at Dorcas by Annet Lukkien

Dorcas is a member of DRA as well as the DCDD network. Dorcas started to implement disability inclusion in their humanitarian response projects a few years ago.

Dorcas makes use of the Washington Group set of questions for the **needs assessment** of people to enhance their response to the most vulnerable people. Furthermore, Annet encouraged all organizations as a first step towards the inclusion of people with a disability in their programs to pose these questions:

- **How are we actually reaching people with a disability?**
- **How is inclusion reflected in your mission and vision statement of your Organization?**
- **Disability experts to really ensure inclusive projects and assistance**

Annet emphasized various reasons for disability inclusion in the humanitarian sector:

Ethical	: leave no one behind
SDGs	: eradicate poverty: there is a strong link between disability and poverty
UNCRPD	: human dignity
Economic reasons	: access to assets and skills
Legal Reasons	: UNCRPD, parliament
Financial Reason	: donors' expectations

Case 2: IDP camps in South Sudan by Light for the World / Paulien Bruijn

Light for the world has a capacity building program for humanitarian actors in the IDP camps around Juba, South Sudan. This includes, for example, **trainings** for food distribution staff and medical staff and provide disability inclusive services. Furthermore, they offer an **accessibility audit** of the campsites in which they look at sanitary facilities, ramps to health posts and schools. Their community-based rehabilitation programme has been proven very successful in IDP camps in Juba and resulted in simple improvements such as: accessible toilets, ramps to health posts and accessibility of schools. The trainings for camp management and local leadership (including youth & women leaders) on disability inclusion, inclusive education and peacekeeping resulted in practical outcomes / improvements, such as people with disabilities being represented in the camp management committees, and joint targets for inclusion were set by humanitarian agencies.

Paulien closed her presentation with the key lessons learned in her experience in inclusive humanitarian response and recommended a [resource book on inclusion in humanitarian action](#) (please note that further documents can be found on the last pages of this report).

Key lessons learned:

- Disability Awareness is the first step
- Low cost solutions are possible
- Inclusion can only be reached if we work together
- Active participation of (organizations of) people with disabilities is key
- Disability specific organizations can provide technical expertise
- Inclusion only happens if you plan for it!

Conclusion: taking the IASC Guidelines forward in 2020

At the end of the three-hour workshop of new insights and case studies we discussed how DRA can take the IASC guidelines forward.

All Joint Response leads agreed that it is important to map what the organizations and fieldworkers of the DRA already do in accordance with the IASC guidelines on disability inclusion, to find out to what extent the fieldworkers already identify people with disabilities and assess / address their needs. It needs to be assessed which knowledge and skills are still needed among the local partners, for follow-up training. Furthermore, it would be important to determine possible local networks and resource / disability organizations that could support the field workers in the different countries towards disability inclusion.

After the mapping and audits of the current situation the DRA leads plan to set minimum standards and provide a practical list for partners and field workers for a needs- and evidence-based response, as well as concrete and sectorial measures. The country visits of the leads in the first half year of 2020 could be used to talk with the field workers in person about this topic.

Helpful tools for organizations, shared by Paulien Bruijn

- [The Organisational Assessment Tool](#) helps to identify how you can work on disability inclusion at organizational level



Tool to check inclusion of persons with disabilities in all PCM phases

Aim of tool:

- Helps you to mainstream disability throughout the whole lifespan of a project.
- Helps you to assess the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in the various (project cycle) phases of the projects of your organisation.

No.	Question
Policy setting / strategic planning	
1.	Does the donor have a policy on disability, or request for specific attention to vulnerable groups, among others persons with disabilities?
2.	Are the values in the strategic plans and policies of your organisation informed by equal human rights?
3.	Are the strategic plans and policies of your organisation referring to vulnerable groups, among others persons with disabilities?
4.	What is the strategy/are the strategies to include or work with vulnerable groups, among others persons with disabilities? Are there different strategies for different groups of people?
Identification	
5.	Are there links between your organisation/your partner organisations and DPOs, or persons with disabilities? What does the relationship/partnership look like?
6.	Is the number and the type of disability of persons with disabilities being identified?
7.	Are needs and barriers of persons with disabilities being studied?
8.	Do persons with disabilities have an active role in obtaining and validating information at the identification phase?
Formulation	
9.	Are targets for inclusion of persons with disabilities being set?
10.	Are criteria for beneficiary selection being disability inclusive?
11.	Is an activity plan being made to achieve inclusion of persons with disabilities?
12.	Is planned infrastructure (new built and renovation) in accordance with universal design standards or other disability sensitive standards in use in the country?
13.	Are actions related to inclusion of persons with disabilities being budgeted separately, or earmarked (f.e. training, offering rehabilitation services or providing assistive devices)?

No.	Question
Contracting	
14.	Is flexibility being bargained/possible with the donor to adjust the programme when there is good justification (f.e. if baseline data on disability are limited/insufficient, and new data may change the quantitative targets).
Implementation (M&E)	
15.	Is staff being trained on disability (mainstreaming), to increase their knowledge, attitude and practice?
16.	Are indicators for disability inclusion being formulated and fixed into the monitoring system?
17.	Are disability disaggregated data being collected and analysed within the monitoring and evaluation system?
18.	Is referral to or provision of rehabilitation services and assistive devices being done?
19.	Is awareness being raised in communities and with authorities on disability (rights) and how disabling barriers need to be addressed?
20.	Are persons with disabilities being empowered themselves (i.e. grow in self-confidence, healthy social relations and economic control)?
21.	Are (community) meeting places being made accessible for all persons with disabilities (i.e. are they able to come and stay)?
22.	Is communication made accessible for persons with disabilities (i.e. easy read/pictogram, sign language, audio/braille print)?
Evaluation	
23.	Is (the impact and sustainability) of inclusion of persons with disabilities in the programme, part of the Terms of Reference for the final evaluation?
24.	Is the evaluator familiar with equal rights and disability?
25.	Do persons with disabilities have an active role in obtaining and validating information in the evaluation phase?

Tool references:

- Making Development Inclusive project, [How to include the perspectives of persons with disabilities in the project cycle management guidelines of the EC](#), 2008.
- [Disability Dimension in Development Action](#). Manual on Inclusive Planning. Edited by Ronald Wiman. Originally Published by STAKES for and on behalf of the United Nations, 1997 and 2000. Revised on-line version 2003.
- Inclusion Made Easy, CBM, 2012 (p. 39-53)
- [Lessons learned on inclusion of persons with disabilities in the ICCO Gaibandha Food Security Programme for Ultra-Poor Women](#), LFTW, 2013