

<b>Name and location of the project</b>	Phase 2 – Leave No One Behind, Germany
<b>Duration of the project</b>	09/2018 – 31/12/2021 (40 months, including 4 months no-cost extension).
<b>General objective of the project and expected results</b>	<p><b>Overall Objective</b></p> <p>Persons with disabilities enjoy equal and meaningful participation, safety, and protection in international humanitarian action, both in general and in German-funded assistance in particular.</p> <p><b>Expected Results</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support for the development of the global IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and sharing good practices on disability mainstreaming in global coordination mechanisms.</li> <li>2. Capacity and awareness-building activities for humanitarian actors in Germany and their local partners at the field level on both an operational and organisational level to mainstream disability and the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.</li> <li>3. Collaboration with two German universities and applied research to strengthen the evidence base for disability inclusive programming and coordination of humanitarian action.</li> </ol>
<b>Specific objective and expected results in relation to the good practice</b>	Collaboration with two German universities and applying accompanying research to strengthen the evidence base for disability inclusive programming and coordination of humanitarian action.
<b>What particular aspect of the project does this good practice address?</b>	Building evidence for disability inclusion and strengthened awareness

## Background

Persons with disabilities are estimated to represent 15 per cent of the world's population<sup>1</sup> and are among the most marginalised people in crisis-affected communities<sup>2</sup>. In disasters, their mortality rate is two to four times higher than that of persons without disabilities<sup>3</sup>. Hence, there is a need to focus on including persons with disabilities in various aspects of humanitarian actions such as disaster preparedness, response and recovery.

Handicap International Germany (HI), Christoffel-Blindenmission (CBM) and the Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) at Ruhr University Bochum implemented together the project "Phase 2 – Leave No One Behind!". The project's activities brought awareness on disability inclusion in humanitarian action, supported the development of the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, built capacities of German NGOs and their local partners, strengthened inclusion of persons with disabilities in academic curricula and events, and enhanced the evidence base through applied research.

The project contributed to building an evidence base that enables decision-makers, humanitarian organisations and the scientific community to make appropriate choices and informed decisions, replicate good practices and expand scientific knowledge on the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

## What is the problem being addressed?

Scientific articles in humanitarian research "share a common concern: how to shift from a more informal, descriptive, and anecdotal approach to a more formal, rigorous, methodologically grounded, analytical, and transparent approach to generating and using evidence in conditions of upheaval, conflict, or disruption"<sup>4</sup>. Hence, there is not much research available and/or it lacks scientific rigour, as it tends to be more informal, descriptive or anecdotal. Further, scientific research has "to move beyond taking stock of inputs and outputs, [and needs] to measure outcomes and impacts. Therefore, there is a need for systematic collection and aggregation of evidence that also considers the role of interventions in the broader socio-economic context<sup>5</sup>, and that is relevant and accessible to multiple stakeholders in order to build a significant knowledge base. Scientific evidence on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action

---

<sup>1</sup> WHO and World Bank, World Report on Disability (2011)

<sup>2</sup> Report of the United Nations Secretary-General for the World Humanitarian Summit, One Humanity, Shared Responsibility

<sup>3</sup> Katsunori Fujii, 'The Great East Japan Earthquake and Disabled Persons', in Disability Information Resources, Japan

<sup>4</sup> Ling, Leeuw, and Rieper, 2012, p. 175

<sup>5</sup> Dijkzeul, Dennis; Hilhorst, Dorothea; Walker, Peter, Article in Disasters, Vol. 37 – 1/1/2013

is particularly scarce. More good and promising practices need to be documented in order to learn from them, replicate efforts and to inform the decisions and planning of humanitarian actors, as well as the work of other scientific researchers.

## What happened?

The project team strengthened the already existing relationship with the International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV) at Ruhr University Bochum (Germany). The IFHV became a project partner in project Phase 2. The IFHV became a project partner in the Phase 2 - Leave no one behind! project and was responsible for the accompanying applied research. The research conducted by the IFHV was supported and informed by the technical expertise of global and field specialists on inclusive humanitarian action. Within the framework of the Phase 2 - Leave no one behind! project, the researchers accomplished the following:

- Completed and published research on Rohingya refugee response in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh
- Published an article, "Strategic partnerships and disability-inclusive humanitarian action: the Rohingya refugee response in Bangladesh" and a blog post
- Participated in events and workshops, and provided evidence on disability inclusion in humanitarian action.
- Carried out and submitted a literature review, and developed the project's Theory of Change
- Designed a second field study in South Sudan, and conducted the research mainly in virtual mode due to COVID-19. The report was finalised in December 2021

## What changed?

Due to the project's initiative, the literature reviews, the research reports, and articles based on Cox's Bazar's research and South Sudan added to the knowledge base. The applied research, which resulted in articles, blog posts, reports and a literature review, provided much-needed scientific rigour for information on disability inclusion in humanitarian action.

The review effectively highlights gaps where more research is required.

These published reports/articles/ reviews of the literature are one of the initial attempts in this sector, will be cited by others and form a basis for further research, bring inclusion into academic discourse, and add to the body of knowledge. The field-based research reports, papers, and articles published effectively created attention for inclusion in humanitarian action and highlighted further research needs.

# Promising Practice

*Phase 2 – Leave No One Behind*

## **How?**

Despite some challenges in conducting research, the project team has effectively collaborated in conceptualising and conducting research in the field. The researcher gained access to Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh through partners of HI and CBM, to collect data. For the virtual research in South Sudan, the partners helped in focus group discussions and connected the researcher with local partners.

Evidence-based action research capitalising on HI and CBM's partner's contacts in the field had been promising and paved way for more such collaborations. The research was field based, focusing on stakeholders' perspectives and the involvement of persons with disabilities added to its integrity and credibility.

## **Recommendations**

Partner organisations in the field, international NGOs and universities collaborating for research should invest time and effort to plan logistics and clarify expectations to avoid potential issues later.