

Name and location of the project	Phase 2 – Leave No One Behind, Germany
Duration of the project	09/2018 – 31/12/2021 (40 months, including 4 months no-cost extension).
General objective of the project and expected results	<p>Overall Objective</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>Expected Results</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 3. Collaboration with two German universities and applied research to strengthen the evidence base for disability inclusive programming and coordination of humanitarian action.
Specific objective and expected results in relation to the good practice	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.
What particular aspect of the project does this good practice address?	Development, publication, translation and dissemination of IASC Guidelines.

Background

Persons with disabilities are estimated to represent 15 per cent of the world's population¹ and are among the most marginalised people in crisis-affected communities². In disasters, their mortality rate is two to four times higher than that of persons without disabilities³. 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.

One of the result areas of the project was to support the development and dissemination of the IASC Guidelines for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. The guidelines provided to the humanitarian actors a framework for inclusion of persons with disabilities.

What is the problem being addressed?

Persons with disabilities are a heterogeneous group, they enjoy the same rights and freedoms as persons without disabilities but still experience difficulties in exercising their rights. In a humanitarian crisis, they are often marginalized and excluded, which increases their vulnerabilities.

Humanitarian organisations are aware of these risks but often do not have the knowledge, expertise and experience to ensure their inclusion. There is a need for practical guidelines to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disabilities.

What happened?

The IASC Guidelines were prepared with the involvement of more than 600 stakeholders from the humanitarian and disability sectors, which included many organisations of persons with disabilities from around the world⁴. The Guidelines place the rights and needs of persons with disabilities at the centre of humanitarian action. The project team funded, supported, and facilitated stakeholder meetings.

¹ WHO and World Bank, World Report on Disability (2011)

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

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

⁴ IASC Guidelines, foreword, page X

The project supported/ worked closely with the co-chairs of the Task Team for the finalisation of the Guidelines, and with the DRG co-chairs for the dissemination, translation and operationalisation.

The project team processed the review by OPDs/ persons with disabilities and coordinated the formulation of an Easy to Read (ETR) version (pending approval from Inclusion International). They translated the Guidelines into French and Spanish, published and disseminated it in December 2020 and January 2021 and supported the Disability Reference Group (DRG) to disseminate the IASC Guidelines in events at global level.

The Disability Reference Group (DRG) is now working on seven e-learning modules, face-to-face trainings and online training packages on inclusive humanitarian action. The project had initiated, financed, and supported the development of these modules.

What changed?

With growing awareness of the rights of persons with disability, the Guidelines were the right step towards facilitating the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all sectors and phases of humanitarian action.

Organisations that did not have the know-how to include persons with disabilities now have the IASC Guidelines to revert to.

By providing recommendations to different stakeholders such as donors, humanitarian country teams, cluster leads, and programmers, the Guidelines have helped to change the attitude of humanitarian actors and organisations. Many participants (staff from NGOs involved in humanitarian action) who participated in the evaluation of the project indicated that the Guidelines help them to include persons with disabilities in their programming. “I refer to the must-do actions in the Guidelines” was repeatedly stated in focus group discussions (FGDs). The participants expressed a heightened awareness of the need for collecting disaggregated data, analysis and its usage. They now ensure it in every step of their humanitarian action.

How?

The project included IASC Guidelines in the capacity building of German NGOs and their local partners. The principles and recommendations helped participants to practice inclusion. They provided the necessary guidance to those who lacked knowledge on inclusion. Internationally accepted IASC Guidelines provided a framework that ensures similar approaches and techniques across all humanitarian actors.

Recommendations

- In its development and the principles of the IASC Guidelines, the involvement of persons with disability was central. Despite difficulties that may arise, the involvement of persons with disability should be ensured.
- The application and use of the Guidelines in the capacity building of humanitarian actors are important. there is a need to operationalise the guidelines with quick references, checklists, and tool kits.