



# Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in the Humanitarian COVID-19 Response

---

Webinar of the Project

“Phase 2 – Leave no one behind!

Mainstreaming Disability in Humanitarian Action”

The project is funded by the  
German Federal Foreign Office



# Welcome

Phase 2 - Leave no one Behind!

## Webinar

Inclusion of  
Persons with Disabilities  
in the Humanitarian  
COVID-19 Response

7 May 2020

3.30 pm (CEST)

Free of Charge.

In English. International Sign Language  
and Live-Captioning Provided.

### Event organizers:



**Haakon Spriewald**

Project Coordinator,  
Handicap International

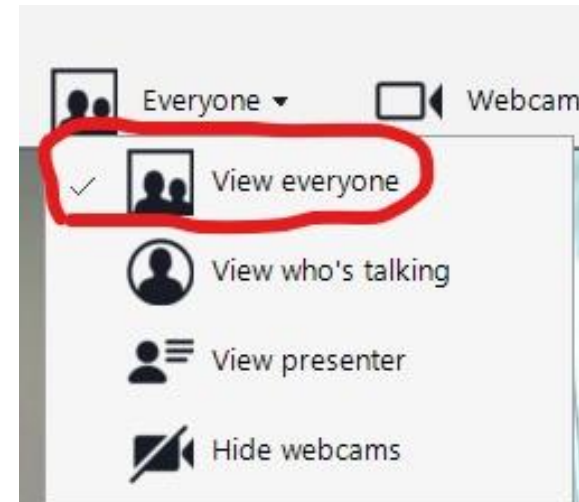
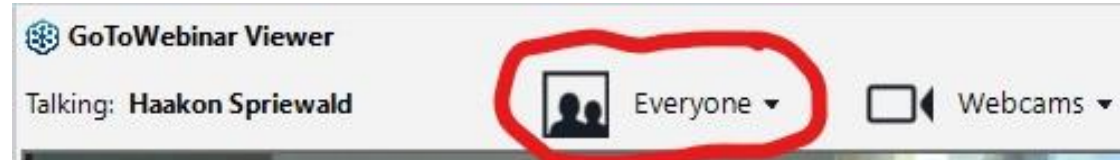


**Sabrina Ebert**

Project Officer,  
Handicap International

# International Sign Language & Live Captioning

- Camera of interpreter appears on the top of your screen
- If you cannot see the camera image, click on “View everyone” in the menu above the camera:



- To access the live captioning, use the link in the chat box or type in: <https://www.streamtext.net/text.aspx?event=CFI-Hi>

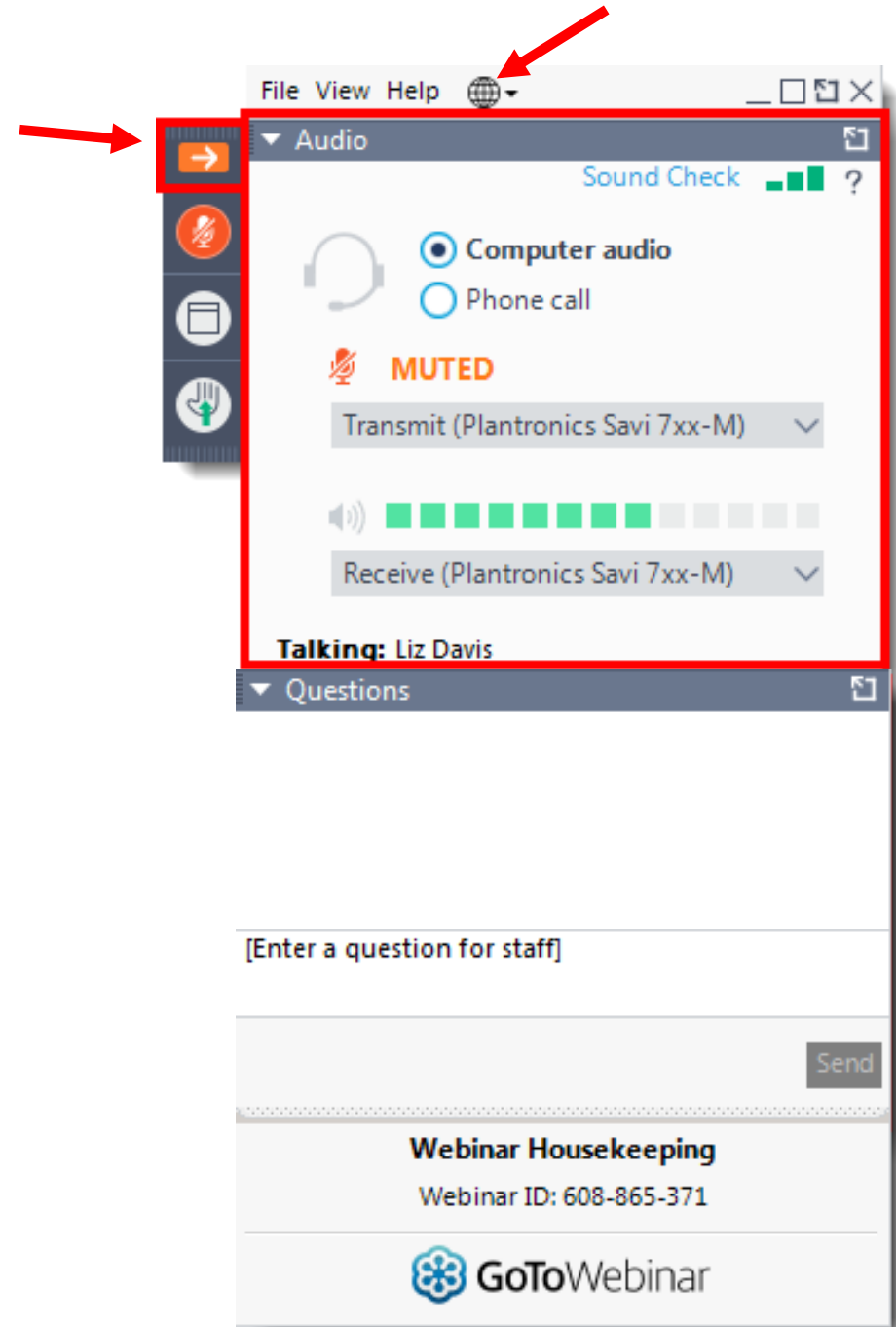
# Connection and Trouble Shooting

- If your computer audio is not working, you may listen on your phone instead
  - Number: +49 721 9881 4171
  - [Calling from another country?](#)
  - Access code: 887-644-824
- In case you are unable to solve connection problems, write to us in the question panel or by email to: [leavenoonebehind@deutschland.hi.org](mailto:leavenoonebehind@deutschland.hi.org)

# Navigation Features

## Your options

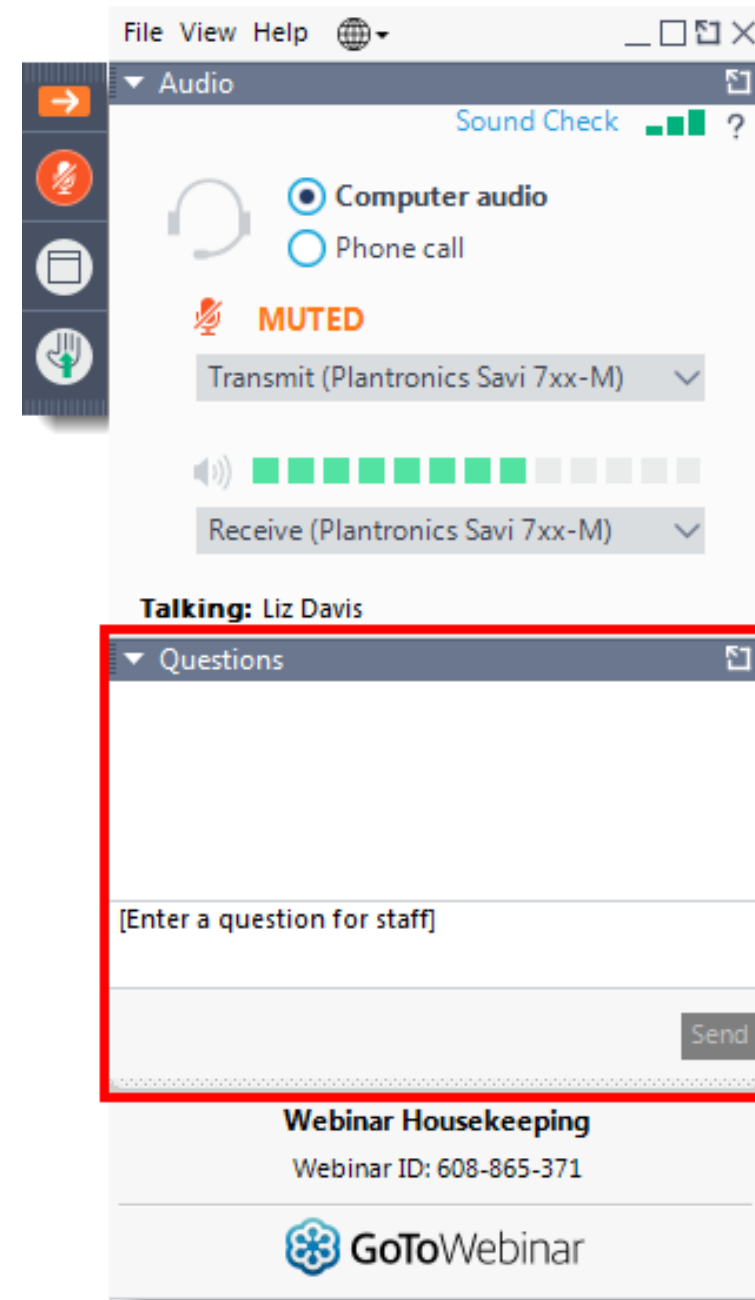
- Open and close your **control panel** with orange arrow
- Change **language of the panel** with world symbol
- You can change audio in the audio panel:
  - Choose **Mic & Speakers** to use computer audio
  - Choose **Telephone** and dial using the information provided



# How to ask a question?

## Your options

- Please send your questions to the speakers in the **questions panel**
- To enter the question panel, you can also use **CTRL + ALT + T**
- If you cannot use the question panel, send us questions by email to: [leavenoonebehind@Deutschland.hi.org](mailto:leavenoonebehind@Deutschland.hi.org)



# Webinar Structure

- Welcome and Introduction (5 min)
- Speakers' Presentations (55 minutes)
- Sensory break (2 minutes)
- Questions & Answers (20 minutes)
- Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

Phase 2 - Leave no one Behind!

## Webinar

**Inclusion of  
Persons with Disabilities  
in the Humanitarian  
COVID-19 Response**

7 May 2020

3.30 pm (CEST)

Free of Charge.

In English. International Sign Language  
and Live-Captioning Provided.

# Webinar Objectives

- Key barriers and risks for persons with disabilities in the humanitarian COVID-19 response
- Provision of key actions, promising practices and practical recommendations
- Provision of key resources
- Building on momentum around disability inclusion in humanitarian action

Phase 2 - Leave no one Behind!

## Webinar

**Inclusion of  
Persons with Disabilities  
in the Humanitarian  
COVID-19 Response**

7 May 2020

3.30 pm (CEST)

Free of Charge.

In English. International Sign Language  
and Live-Captioning Provided.



# Speakers



## **Sien Andries**

Inclusive Humanitarian  
Action Specialist,  
Humanity & Inclusion



## **Paul Mugambi**

Disability Rights Activist and  
Inclusion Technical Advisor,  
Humanity & Inclusion Somalia



## **Cucu Saidah**

Disability Inclusion  
Advisor CBM Indonesia



## **Mariana Martinez**

Inclusion Technical Specialist,  
Humanity & Inclusion  
Sierra Leone



## **Juan Angel De Gouveia Fernandez**

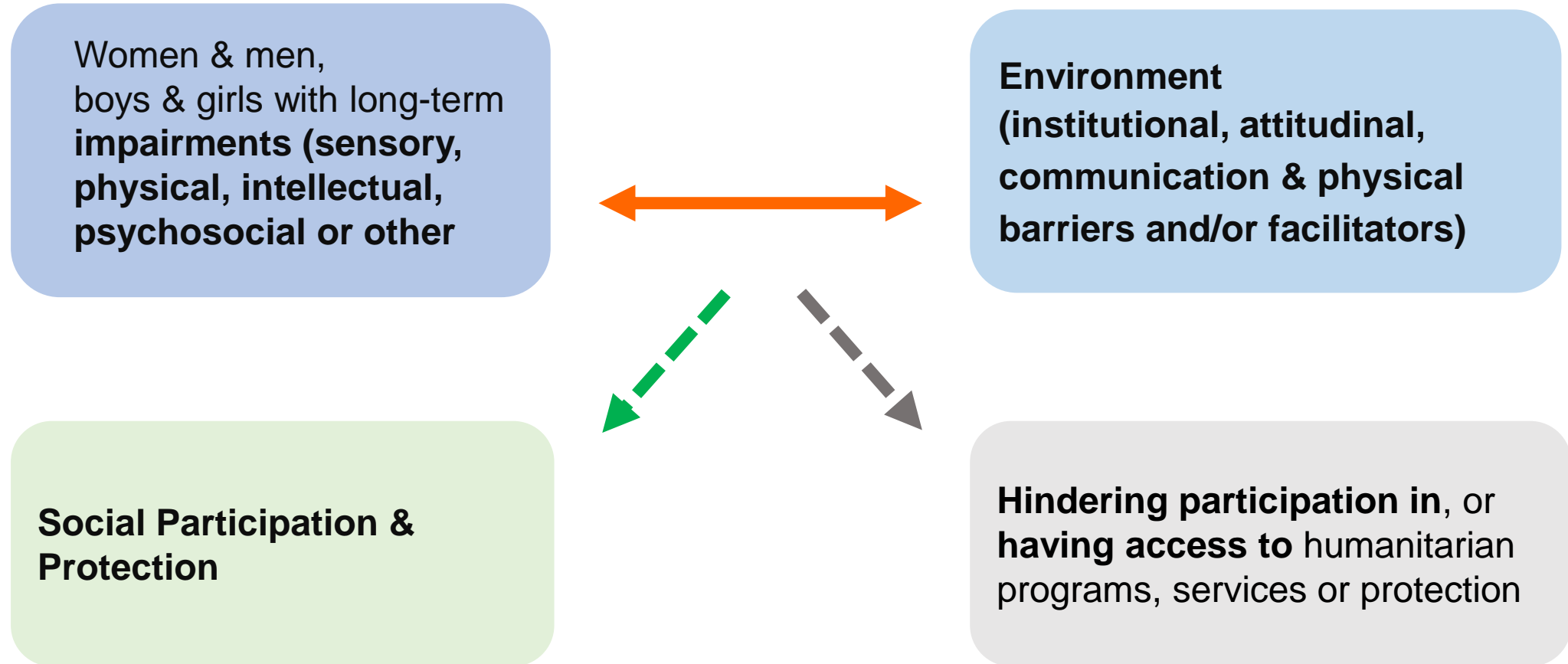
Human Rights Defender and President  
of Venezuelan Confederation of the  
Deaf (Consorten).

# Why is disability inclusion important in the COVID-19 response?

- **15% of the world's population**, with higher numbers expected in humanitarian contexts
- Heightened **risk of violence, exploitation and abuse**
- Previous health emergencies show that persons with disabilities are more at risk and are **not systematically considered**
- Policy gains are not yet translated into more inclusive practices, leading to a lack of resources and capacities
- This further translates into de-prioritization of disability-inclusion and lack of accessibility and diversity of services



# What is disability?



„**Disability** is an **evolving concept** and [...] disability results from the **interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinders their full and effective participation** in society on an equal basis with others“ [...] (Preamble (e), CRPD)

# Disability in humanitarian settings

- Persons with disabilities face increased risks in humanitarian settings

## For example in Somalia:

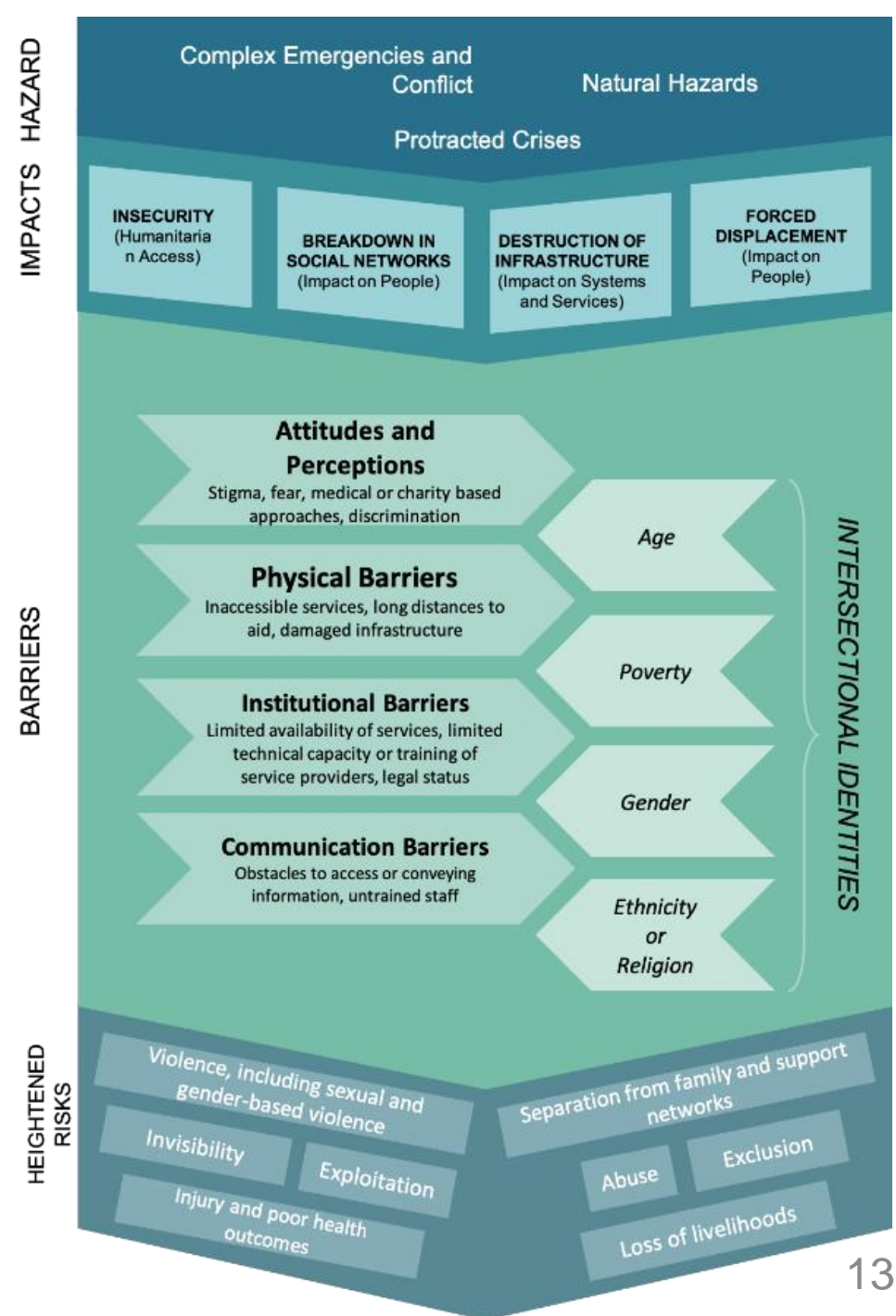
- Conflict, insecurity, drought, famine, various epidemics, limited social protection, displacement in combination with structural discrimination and lack of inclusive humanitarian response.
- Disability is associated with physical impairments and war-injuries





# What are the risk factors and barriers persons with disability face?

- Persons with disabilities are not vulnerable per se, but exposed to multiple risks within humanitarian settings and health emergencies.



# What are the risk factors and barriers persons with disability face?

Within public health emergencies, persons with disabilities are at increased risk of contracting the virus, experiencing complications and are challenged to cope with the situation:

- Structural inequalities interact with crisis specific barriers and risks
  - For example, breakdown of social networks, the health and economic system
- Increased exposure to the virus
- Underlying health conditions can increase infection risks and associated complications
- Numerous physical, attitudinal, institutional and communication barriers in preparedness and response mechanisms

# What are the risk factors and barriers persons with disability face?

- Access barriers and risks are diverse and vary according to the context
  - They are defined by multiple and intersecting factors
  - For example, low level of education/ illiteracy, poverty, poor living conditions, gender, etc.
- Persons with disabilities are not a homogenous group and face various types of risks and barriers
  - For example, a person with an intellectual impairment might be challenged to access or understand complex information, adapt new information
- Limited data on barriers and risks

# What are the risk factors and barriers persons with disability face?



## Cucu Saidah

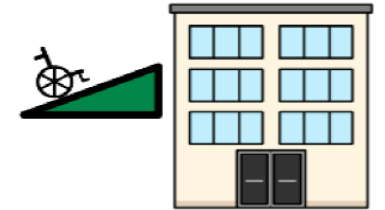
Disability Inclusion Advisor CBM  
Indonesia

Presenting a practical example  
from Indonesia.



# What is disability inclusion in the COVID-19 response?

- Ensuring all COVID-19 actions responds to the needs of all persons without any discrimination on basis of disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, etc.
- Mainstreaming of disability, together with targeted actions (twin-track approach) through all phases of the response and during all steps of the program cycle
- Responsibility of health and non-health actors at national and local level



# Key considerations

1. Collection of data on persons with disabilities
2. Meaningful participation of persons with disabilities
3. Inclusive communication
4. Engage with persons with disabilities and their families to ensure their protection and health

# 1. Collection of data on persons with disabilities

## Collecting & using disability-disaggregated data

Relevant, effective, inclusive preparedness & humanitarian programming is informed by **data-collection initiatives that include persons with disabilities.**

The **Washington Group Questions (WGQs)** is one of the tools that can be used in humanitarian settings.

*Case studies' collection 2019 - Inclusion of Persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, CBM, HI, IDA.*

1



# 1. Collection of data on persons with disabilities

- Identify needs and risks of persons with disabilities by analysing information disaggregated by sex, age and disability
- Directly engage persons with different types of disabilities in your assessments and monitoring exercises (national and local level)
- Monitor and address discriminatory practices, misperceptions and protection risks

More information on data on persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, including simple training modules for enumerators can be found here: [Factsheet-1-Collecting-data-in-humanitarian-action-using-the-WGQs.pdf](#)



- ✓ Understand the prevalence of persons with disabilities at population level



- ✓ Understand level of access of persons with disabilities to humanitarian programmes



- ✓ Disaggregate key programmes indicators by disabilities.



## 2. Meaningful participation of persons with disabilities

### Meaningful participation in humanitarian response & recovery

Persons with disabilities can undertake any role in humanitarian response and recovery, either as **independent operators** or in partnership, and be supported to **self-organise and fully participate** in decision-making processes in camp settings.

Case studies' collection 2019 - Inclusion of Persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, CBM, HI, IDA.

2



## 2. Meaningful participation-Consorven in COVID response

- Participation in different humanitarian coordination platforms (clusters) with the aim of promoting inclusion of persons with disabilities. Engagement to influence and advice design, monitoring and evaluation of emergency response plans.
- Within COVID response:
  - Working on providing key messages on how to include people with disabilities in the response;
  - Promoting disaggregated data collection and analysis;
  - Production of practical materials and tools for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in COVID responses;
  - Promoting accessibility in services implemented by mainstreaming organizations

## 2. Meaningful participation

Elaboration and presentation of assessments and evaluations on barriers faced by persons with disabilities



Production and presentation of practical inclusion guidelines



For example by

- Identifying the barriers of to access to services for persons with disabilities
- Identifying the support need for humanitarian organizations to be more inclusive

For example a guide for the production of accessible materials

Positive and active participation and promotion of disability inclusion in decision making platforms

## 2. Meaningful participation

- Direct and active participation of OPDs in the activities of:
- **Awareness raising sessions** for humanitarian actors, through clusters, on disability and inclusive humanitarian action. Emphasis is placed on the twin-track approach, sending key messages to humanitarian actors on the importance of including people with disabilities to make the response inclusive in each phase of the response
- **Training** of humanitarian actors on specific sectors and thematics, identifying good practices and how to improve the inclusion in their response
- **Technical Support** for organizations that want to improve inclusion of person with disabilities in all their intervention and require specific technical support in doing so



## 2. Meaningful participation of persons with disabilities

- Identify networks at national and local level to amplify their actions
- Listen to and learn about their experiences in similar situations and how to overcome barriers (e.g. accessibility of public messaging)
- Collaborate on interventions to ensure non-discrimination: Increase understanding of communities about persons with disabilities and their needs; make information accessible and diverse; challenge misperceptions; local advocacy; participate in the design of preparedness and response plans





# **Sensory Break**

2 minutes

# 3. Inclusive communication

## Inclusive communication

Persons with disabilities receive information that is accessible to them and responds to their particular needs to allow their protection and equal access to prevention and response mechanisms

3



# 3. Inclusive communication

## Direct interventions

- Capitalizing on network of community-based volunteers to ensure messages reach remote places and follow-up/monitoring students (radio lessons and general well-being)
- Working with OPDs to ensure key information reaches persons with disabilities
- Preparing with the Emergency Office and the City council development a training on inclusive preparedness and response for their staff

## Indirect interventions

- Emphasizing the importance of delivering messages through different formats
- Ensuring that jingles on radio and other key messages are translated into different local languages
- Mobilizing sign language interpreters for press conferences
- Reviewing materials (posters, etc.) to ensure accessibility (pictures, reduced text, size of text, etc.)



### 3. Inclusive communication

Mobilise sign language interpreter for press conferences:



# What can other actors do?

- Consider enhancing participation at community/ sub-national and national levels.
  - For example, by working with a diversity of networks of persons with disabilities (as often in capital, impairment specific, under-representation of women/children/intellectual disabilities) as well with community networks
- Prepare for emergencies in an inclusive manner.
  - For example, training of staff/ preparation of messages/networking and partnership
- Conduct advocacy towards partners and government on inclusion.
  - Systematic internal reflection on how to adapt programs (including communication materials)
- Ensure all communication is available in different formats.
  - For example, video, audio, text, etc.

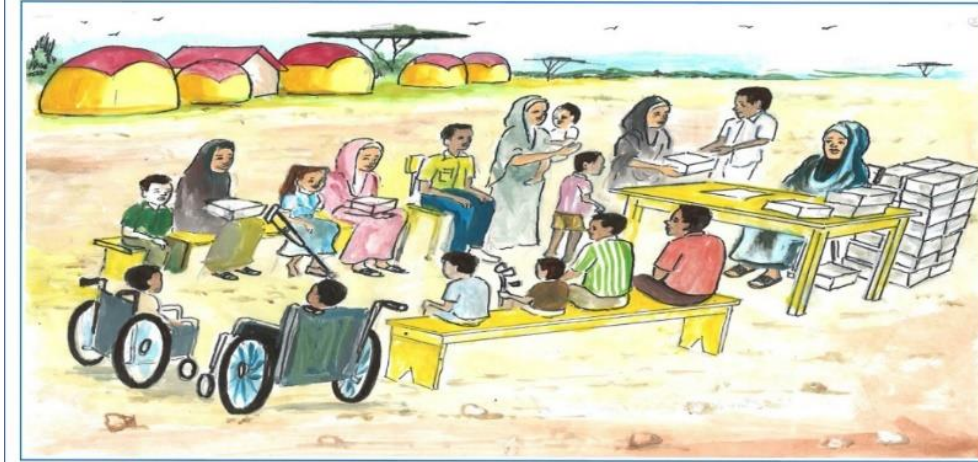




### 3. Inclusive communication

- Share inclusive information on COVID-19 through a diversity of accessible formats with use of accessible technologies.
- Challenge stereo-typing and promote diversity and disability-inclusion
- Collaborate on interventions to ensure non-discrimination

**BOYS AND GIRLS WITH DISABILITIES UNDER FIVE ARE ENTITLED TO THE SAME AMOUNT OF FOOD AS CHILDREN UNDER FIVE WITHOUT DISABILITIES, SOME MAY NEED ADJUSTED NUTRITION PACKAGES OR ASSISTIVE DEVICES AND THAT YOU FOLLOW UP ON THEIR NUTRITION STATUS.**



Funded by  **german humanitarian assistance**  
DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE

Implemented by  **humanity & inclusion**  
the new name of handicap international

**ACCESSIBLE HEALTH CENTERS TO WHEELCHAIR USERS, ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIMITED MOBILITY ARE THE FOUNDATION OF INCLUSIVE HEALTH.**



Funded by  **german humanitarian assistance**  
DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE

Implemented by  **humanity & inclusion**  
the new name of handicap international

## 4. Engaging with persons with disabilities and their families to ensure their protection and health

Engaging with persons with disabilities and their families to ensure their protection and health

Persons with disabilities receive information about the situation, how to stay healthy and safe and how to seek for assistance

4





## 4. Engaging with persons with disabilities and their families to ensure their protection and health

- Provide protective messages to persons with disabilities and families to reduce exposure and stay safe and healthy.
  - For example, by reducing social contacts, following public restriction plans, providing information on how to access services
- Support persons with disabilities, their families and support network on how to prepare for public restrictions and isolation:
  - For example, by preparing medication, food, alternatives for social support.
- Adapt interventions to fit diverse needs

**#COVID19 and disability**

People with disability can reduce their potential exposure by:

-  Avoiding crowds
-  Working from home
-  Disinfecting assistive products
-  Gathering urgent items

 Prepare their household for the instance COVID-19 is contracted

 Inform people they trust on what they should do if you become ill

 Family     Household     Friends

 World Health Organization    **#coronavirus**

# Support to persons with disabilities to ensure health/protection- Consorven in COVID response

- Quarantine and the health crisis generated by COVID have a great impact on persons with disabilities. In particular by increasing anxiety, stress and depression. This is due to lack of accessible information about the virus and measures to prevent it.
- Consorven is working in two directions (dual-track):
  - Producing accessible materials that directly inform caregivers of children with disabilities on managing anxiety resulting from quarantine, and other informative accessible materials directed to persons with disabilities;
  - Working with UNICEF and UNICEF's partners to create practical guidance to mainstream children with disabilities into the psychosocial support activities that UNICEF's partners are implementing.

# Resources

- IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and key messages for disability Inclusive COVID response (forthcoming)
- WHO (2020) Disability considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak
- UNICEF, COVID-19 response: Considerations for Children and Adults with Disabilities and Key Recommendations from International Disability Alliance (IDA) for the Inclusive Response to COVID-19
- Collection of data on persons with disabilities in humanitarian action: [Factsheet-1-Collecting-data-in-humanitarian-action-using-the-WGQs.pdf](#)



CASE STUDIES COLLECTION 2019

## **Inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action**

39 examples of field practices, and learnings from 20 countries, for all phases of humanitarian response

# Questions and Answers





# Closing Reflections

- A human rights-based approach to disability is required in the COVID-19 response to ensure that persons with disabilities are not left behind.
- To do so, it is required to place them at the centre of the response, participating as active agents throughout the planning and implementation.
- Imperative for all stakeholders to take necessary steps and key actions to ensure the response is inclusive, accessible and non-discriminatory.
- Consider building on existing processes and identifying entry points ("quick wins") to start while gradually building more systematic change.

# Wrap-up and Next Steps

- Evaluation survey directly after the webinar
- Follow-up email with:
  - Link to recording
  - Presentation
  - Additional useful resources
  - Link to evaluation
  - Answers to questions from the webinar
- Available technical support for interested German-based humanitarian actors (as part of the Leave no one behind project), contact us at: [leavenoonebehind@deutschland.hi.org](mailto:leavenoonebehind@deutschland.hi.org)



**Thank You!**

This project is funded by the  
German Federal Foreign  
Office

