



## Meaningful Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

### Evaluation Report

# Meaningful Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action

## Phase 2 – Leave no one behind!: Mainstreaming Disability in Humanitarian Action

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The virtual training on "**Meaningful Participation of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action**" for was successfully completed! as a part of the project "[Phase 2 – Leave no one behind!: Mainstreaming Disability in Humanitarian Action](#)". It conveyed to participants the necessary and practical knowledge about the **understanding of meaningful participation** of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and their involvement in the humanitarian project cycle.

**“The training was very insightful. Thank you for the organisation and all the valuable inputs.”**

### **What was the objective of the training?**

Following the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\) Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#), the training enabled participants to **ensure meaningful participation of persons with disabilities** in humanitarian action, including a specific focus on the **engagement of and collaboration with OPDs**.

What key topics were covered in the training?

- Understanding the different types of barriers and enablers for (organisations of) persons with disabilities to participate in humanitarian action
- Overview of the legal frameworks and relevant guidelines, incl. IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action
- How to find and engage with OPDs, incl. when there is no OPD
- Expectations from OPDs to humanitarian organisations and vice versa
- Meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in all stages of the humanitarian project cycle

### **What methods were used?**

In order for the training **to be very interactive and for participants to have many opportunities to ask questions**, the training included a mix of different sessions. These included, for example, a self-learning and preparation session after the welcome session, followed by two online training modules with presentations, and a group and scenario work. Furthermore, optional individual advisory sessions were offered to support participants in applying the training content to their own work.

The training was hosted in Zoom. In addition, the facilitators used Padlet as interactive and collaborative online tool for the self-learning exercise. The training

strived to be as accessible as possible, complying with different accessibility requirements and providing reasonable accommodation, i.e. live captioning.

## Who took part?

The **training mainly targeted project managers and technical advisors of mainstream German humanitarian actors**, who already have some experience in disability inclusion.

Attendance was **very high from German mainstream actors working in humanitarian action** except one participant coming from a Bangladeshi organisation, which presented a case study in the training. With regard to the position level, participants situated themselves mainly in **officer and middle management** and their field of expertise touched mainly **project and programme management**.

Participants were mostly working in **South and East Africa**, followed by the **Asian and Pacific** region, **Latin America and Caribbean** and **West and Central Africa**. Their organisations' sectors intervention were mostly **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Health, Food Security and Nutrition and Disaster Risk Reduction**.

## What did participants say about the training?

The feedback received by participants was very positive, with a few constructive suggestions and technical/accessibility considerations for improvement. In particular, the **involvement of OPDs** as guest speakers and their insightful contributions **have been highlighted**. Participants said that the narratives directly presented by those affected helped them to gain a more comprehensive understanding, especially in relation to "barriers in all forms"<sup>1</sup>. Further the offer of an **individual advisory session was also highly appreciated and used to the fullest extent by participants**.

Concerning the accessibility, one attendee noted that the interactive online tool Padlet might be unsuitable for persons with visual impairments. Another indicated that the timeframe was not sufficient.

**In summary, participants are very keen to receive further trainings.**

## How did participant benefit from the training?

The feedback from the virtual training showed that topics such as "Barriers & Enablers for OPDs" or "How to find and engage with OPDs" provided participants with useful tools to **understand the basics of meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action**. All respondents stated that the training

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<sup>1</sup> Quotation from a participant

helped them a lot in improving their understanding of inclusive humanitarian action and ways to consult and actively involve OPDs. To further contextualise the content of the training, attendees indicated great interest in sector-specific trainings, e.g. inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) or inclusive Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

**Overall, participants indicated that their organisation is likely or will definitely become more disability inclusive in future.**

This includes, among others, identifying and collaborating with persons with disabilities or representative organisations and adapting assessment methods and tools to collect data on disabilities.



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a blue slide is displayed with the following text:

**Closely consult with and actively involve**

**Requirements:**

- ! Legal capacity and autonomy
- ! Access to information
- ! Systematic proactive approach
- ! Sufficient timing and reasonable accommodation
- ! Duty to inform of the outcome of the consultation

At the bottom of the slide, a small grey box contains the text: "They should reach out actively to DPO's". On the right side of the meeting, four video thumbnails are visible, each with a name below it: Emma Pettey, Sabrina Ebert, Susanne Fonglar, and Elham Youssefian.

## About the project “Phase 2 – Leave no one behind!”

During humanitarian crises, persons with disabilities are often excluded from relief efforts. Environmental, institutional and attitudinal barriers prevent them from accessing humanitarian action. Hence raising awareness in a comprehensive way and building professional capacities in order to mainstream inclusion in humanitarian action is absolutely necessary.

For this reason, the project “Phase 2 – Leave No One Behind!” promotes the anchoring of disability in humanitarian action. It is financed by the [German Federal Foreign Office \(AA\)](#) and implemented in cooperation with the [Christoffel-Blindenmission Christian Blind Mission e.V. \(CBM\)](#) and the [Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict \(IFHV\)](#) at the Ruhr-University Bochum.

## More Information

- To stay informed about upcoming trainings, click [here](#).

- To get more information about the project “Phase 2 – Leave no one behind!: Mainstreaming Disability in Humanitarian Action”, click [here](#).
- To contact us, click [here](#).