

People with disabilities

15% of the world's population live with disabilities. Conflict and disasters can cause disability and can render people with disabilities more vulnerable and unable to access humanitarian assistance. No one should be excluded from humanitarian action.

Nature of disability	Support that may be needed
Physical e.g. Loss of limbs; mobility (temporary or long-term)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dry shelter, extra blankets, warm clothing and bedding, assistive devices, hygienic kit - Personal support; adapted environment (ramp, handrails) - Separate queues e.g. for rations/latrines/water
Visual e.g. Total or partial loss of vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established landmarks, good lighting, unobstructed access routes and hand rails - Personal assistance, magnified information or braille - Separate queues
Hearing e.g. Total or partial loss of hearing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hearing aids and batteries, use of visual aids and picture exchange for communication - Separate queues
Mental illness e.g. Learning difficulties such as Downs Syndrome, bipolar disorder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to appropriate medication - Continuum of care (avoiding changes in care/medication) - Use of simple language, speak slowly, personal assistance - Separate queues - see also '<i>Mental health and psychosocial support</i>' page
Psychosocial e.g. Post-traumatic stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to appropriate medication and psychosocial support - Continuum of care
Hidden disabilities e.g. Epilepsy, HIV/AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access to appropriate medication and continuum of care - Support for family and long term carers, personal assistance

Key inclusion standards for people with disabilities and older people*

These standards help to successfully identify and reach those most at risk.

1: Identification: ensure access to humanitarian assistance and protection that is participative, appropriate and relevant to needs.

2: Safe and equitable access: to humanitarian assistance.

3: Resilience: ensure these groups are not negatively affected, are more prepared and resilient, and are less at risk as a result of humanitarian action.

4: Knowledge and participation: ensure all know their rights and entitlements, and participate in decisions that affect their lives.

5: Feedback and complaints: enable access to safe and responsive feedback and complaints mechanisms.

6: Coordination: ensure access to and participation in humanitarian assistance that is coordinated and complementary.

7: Learning: organisations collect and apply learning for more inclusive assistance.

8: Human resources: staff and volunteers have appropriate skills and attitudes to implement inclusive humanitarian action, and older people and people with disabilities have equal opportunities for employment and volunteering in humanitarian organisations.

9: Resources management: people with disabilities can expect that humanitarian organisations are managing resources in a way that promotes inclusion.

Disability inclusion in disaster management

Disability inclusion in all phases of disaster management (disaster risk reduction, preparedness, prevention and mitigation, disaster relief, rehabilitation and recovery) is crucial.

Disaster preparedness can:

- build knowledge and capacities of governments, organisations, communities and individuals to anticipate disability impact
- include disability contingency planning and training
- include stockpiling of mobility aides and other devices along with general supplies
- plan for accessible evacuation and public information in alternative formats.

Risk reduction, often done concurrently with preparedness, can incorporate reducing exposure to hazards that can cause disability along with decreasing the vulnerability of people with an existing disability.

Additional resources on All In Diary website

Humanitarian inclusion standards for older people and people with disabilities, © CBM International, HelpAge International and Handicap International 2018*
Living with disability and disasters, UNISDR Survey, 2014

Web links for further information

<https://humanity-inclusion.org.uk/en/reports>
<http://www.asksource.info/topics/humanitarian>