



CHARTER ON INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

humanitariandisabilitycharter.org

The Charter defines the **political will and intended course of action to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities**, by lifting the barriers they are facing in accessing relief, protection and recovery support, and ensuring their participation in the design, planning and implementation of humanitarian programmes.

Developed in a multi-stakeholder and participative way, it was **launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 in Istanbul, at the presence of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**, who defined it *“a groundbreaking Charter that places people with disabilities at the heart of humanitarian decision-making”*.

The Charter has been **endorsed by 140 stakeholders** (as of November 2016) including several States, the European Commission, UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, national and international networks, NGOs and organisations of persons with disabilities. A multi-stakeholder group is committed to support its wider endorsement and further implementation and monitoring, including by developing Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC).

WHAT DOES THE CHARTER SAY?

The Charter recalls the **major barriers and problems faced by persons with disabilities** in humanitarian crisis. It refers to all persons with disabilities, applies to all situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and at all phases of a humanitarian response.

The Charter recalls the **existing framework on disability inclusion**, in particular the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Charter identifies 5 principles to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities. The principles are described in an actionable way, aiming to provide the political leadership required to achieve progress.

THE PRINCIPLES

1. Non-discrimination
2. Participation
3. Inclusive policy
4. Inclusive response and services
5. Cooperation and coordination

KEY FIGURES

75% of persons with disabilities living in emergency contexts have no adequate access to essential basic services such as water, shelter, food or health.

92% of humanitarian actors estimate that persons with disabilities are not properly taken into account in the response.

*“Disability in humanitarian contexts: views from affected people and field organizations”,
Handicap International, July 2015*

WHY A CHARTER?

The one billion persons with disabilities worldwide, of whom 80% live in the Global South, are among the most marginalized in crisis-affected communities, disproportionately impacted by disaster and conflict. They face particular barriers in accessing life-saving relief and recovery support. Making sure that they have access to services essential for their survival, protection and recovery requires deliberate action from the humanitarian community. It relates to the humanitarian principles of humanity and impartiality as well as the human rights principles of equity and non-discrimination.

The Charter proposes concrete solutions to address these challenges, pointing at policy and operational principles to ensure a coherent, accountable and effective approach towards inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

Endorse the Charter at: humanitariandisabilitycharter.org
Contact: info@humanitariandisabilitycharter.org