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Inclusive Emergency and Preparedness Responses Strategies

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INTRODUCTION



To design inclusive emergency and preparedness responses, it is inevitable to abide by the human rights-based approach concerning persons with disabilities. It is of necessity not to leave them behind. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UCRPD), which was ratified by the state of Palestine signed in 2014, and the Agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) both call for engaging people with disabilities at the heart of the event and dealing with them on human rights basis.

People with disability (PwDs) share the same basic needs as any other person without disability including protection, health, medicine, basic services, sheltering and income.

The best practice towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities is to include them in planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation of emergency responses. It is recommended for policy makers and humanitarian actors to engage the organization of persons with disabilities (OPDs) representatives the planning for emergency and preparedness responses as well as the service delivery, and the monitoring and evaluation activities.

01

THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

02

The international convention for rights of people with disabilities is considered as an important tool to protect the rights of people with disabilities during times of crisis. The convention includes the fundamental rights that ensure PwDs inclusion and not leaving them behind specially during emergencies. Here are the most important fundamentals:



Right to equality:

All people with disabilities must have the rights to equality in all fields including education, work, caring, health, freedom and nondiscrimination.



Right to participation

People with disabilities must have the right to participate in all life aspects, policy making and decision making



Right to development

People with disabilities must have the right to be developed and think about their future

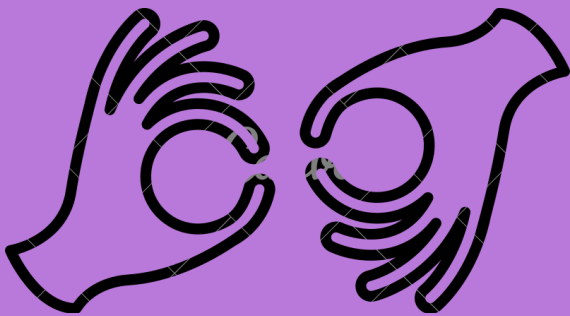
THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

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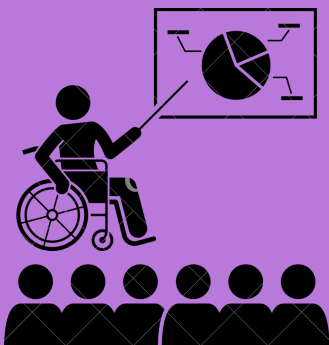
Right to freedom

People with disabilities must have the right to freely take decisions and control their life starting from freedom in expressing opinions, moving to choosing their place of residence.



Right to accessibility

People with disabilities must have the right to access buildings, facilities, roads, aviation, etc.



Right to education

People with disabilities must have the right to education in all fields at all levels.



Right to health

People with disabilities must enjoy the right of health caring and receiving the proper medical health services for them

04



CHALLENGES FACED BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

People with disabilities suffer from complicated challenges and negative effects on their life and movement during times of crisis and emergencies in which they become more susceptible to danger and discrimination. Here are several challenges that PwDs are exposed to during emergency and crisis:

1

Difficulty to receive help

People with disability face difficulties getting the needed help due to the high level of distraction and chaos during times of crisis.

2

Difficulty in movement

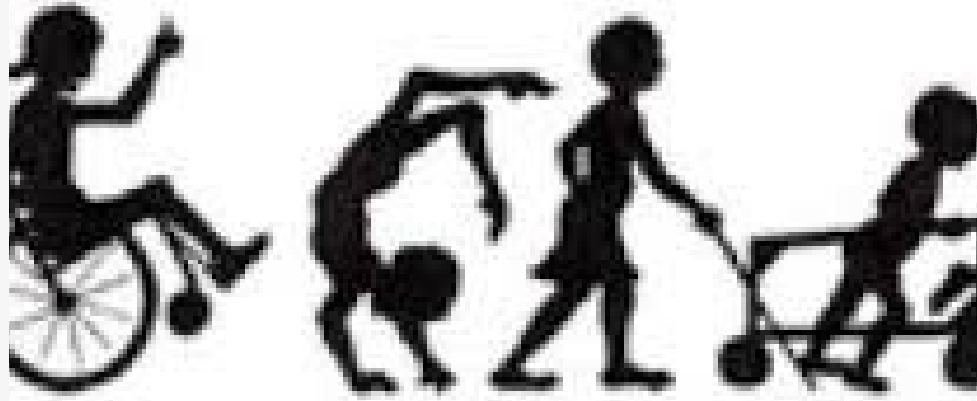
The difficulty of movement is increased among people with disabilities during times of crisis where some roads are closed which lead to facing barriers in movement inside the country or receiving the basic needs.

3

Deteriorating of their health conditions

People with disabilities are more susceptible to diseases and injuries during crisis due to the lack of help, enough medical services and shortage of medical supplies and assistive devices

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CHALLENGES FACED BY PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

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Marginalization and exclusion

People with disabilities suffer from marginalization and exclusion during times of crisis, as society ignores them and doesn't give them enough attention which leads to exacerbating their situation.

5

Lack of resources

The available resources for people with disabilities are limited during times of crisis such as sheltering, food and medicine which doubles their suffering.

6

Exposure to violence and abuse

People with disabilities may face violence and abuse during times of crisis as they become more vulnerable to neglect and abuse.

06

IMPORTANT MEASURES CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN EMERGENCY AND PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS

Persons with disabilities can be included during the process of emergencies responses planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation by following these steps

01 Identification of needs

Include a brief description, rationale and intended impact. It helps to keep it concise yet concrete!

02 Engage PwDs in the planning

PwDs must participate in the response planning by consulting them about their needs and the appropriate procedures to ensure their safety and their inclusive strategies in the response's delivery.

03 Providing inclusive support

Appropriate help must be provided for people with disabilities such as human support or technical support

04 Sitting future

Must be in place to improve the response of PwDs during emergencies through updating response plans and training the staff on how to respond to PwDs within inclusive manners.

05 Awareness and education

Should be raised on disability issues and how to deal with them during times of emergencies through educational procedures for the local community.

07

The Intervention must be Provided with Inclusive Manners during Times of Emergencies

People with disabilities are considered of the most groups that need special attention during emergencies as their abilities to move and evacuate can be significantly affected. Here are some tips to improve their situation during emergencies

1

People with disabilities may face violence and abuse during times of crisis as they become more vulnerable to neglect and abuse.

2

Applying nondiscrimination principle and human rights fundamentals in all crisis management aspects that should respond to all types of disabilities

3

Providing adapted and accessible buildings and public places.

4

Providing buildings with audio and visual alarms for people with disabilities

08

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5

Training the relief teams on how to support people with disabilities during emergencies

6

Providing people with disabilities with contacts that they can communicate with during emergencies

7

Providing inclusive means of transportation for people with disabilities such as buses equipped by wheelchairs lifts.

8

Train people with disabilities on how to act during emergencies and ensure the availability of inclusive response plans during emergencies

09

The Intervention must be Provided with Inclusive Manners during Times of Emergencies

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Providing information regarding the crises and taking actions in easy and clear manners for people with disabilities by using sign language or providing information through pictures

10

Updating the crises management plans to ensure concerted efforts from governmental and non-governmental organizations to improve the situations of people with disabilities

11

Providing psycho-social support sessions for people with disabilities and their families during emergencies

12

Providing spaces and services that fit with the needs of persons with disabilities in temporary shelters.



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