**The CRPD and Advocating for INCLUSIVE HUMANITARIAN ACTION**

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**DISABILITY ADVOCACY in Humanitarian Action** is both a *voice* and a *mechanism* steering disability -informed and -mainstreamed development agendas, legislative and regulatory mechanisms, tools, and innovations to propagate equitable, inclusionary, and spatially efficient forms of normativity that, in fact, *leave no one behind*.

The **Disability Advocacy in Humanitarian Action** *movement* leverages from, and partners with, individual actors and the groups they represent, multilateral agencies, governments, civil society, among other key stakeholders, in progressing the policies, practices and recommendations set out by international treaties, conventions, legislation, policies and practices.

The aim of the movement is to transform **The Triple Nexus or the Humanitarian | Development | Peace (HDP) Nexus**[[1]](#footnote-1) to be disability-inclusive and actioned in a way that is proportionately universal, recognizing that universal responses are needed to trigger social and environmental investment, legislative and behavioural changes, that will reduce the impact of future shocks and increase society’s resilience, highlighting the needs of those who are perpetually marginalized.

Central to this movement is a focus on **rights, equity, and inclusion**, particularly when concerning persons with disabilities and older persons, as well as refugee and displaced populations, who are at an increased risk of experiencing further harm and marginalization because of multi-layered barriers and compounded (but often inadvertent) discriminatory and exclusionary emergency response mechanisms, protection systems, and humanitarian action.

In line with the CRPD’s Article 11, advocates also need to frame the work from the perspective of the HDP Nexus, by holding and promoting the position that protecting these rights is not only a legal obligation, but is intrinsically linked to human development, social cohesion, inclusion, and peacebuilding.

They need to pose the question:

*‘What obligations do state and non-state actors have to respect the rights of all persons, including persons with disabilities and older persons, to protect those rights against barriers and abuses, and to fulfil the rights necessary for them to enjoy a life of dignity and security in humanitarian contexts? (*Analytical Model for Vulnerability Analysis[[2]](#footnote-2))

*They* need to advocate for the following:

1. Advocate with governments to ensure their legal frameworks are non-discriminatory and in line with the provisions of the CRPD (Article 11), the International Human Rights and International Humanitarian Laws, the 2030 Agenda (SDGs), and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
2. Advocate for increased awareness & capacity
3. Advocate for inclusive data collection & research
4. Advocate for a Twin-Track Approach to ensure access to funded mainstream and specialized services
5. Advocate for the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and older persons in decision making and monitoring
6. Advocate for the adoption of all necessary measures outlined in the **IASC Guidelines**, among others, to ensure inclusion, to reduce risk, to improve resilience and increase protection of persons with disabilities and older persons in situations of risk

Despite the scale and protracted crises and the scarcity of sustainable resources to fund ongoing humanitarian responses, more must be done to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities within existing emergency and humanitarian aid efforts. Creating an inclusive environment for refugees and displaced persons with disabilities and older persons in humanitarian settings is indeed challenging but undoubtedly imperative. Only from a platform of collective advocacy and coordinated action can we ensure that no one is truly left behind.

*\*\*References can be provided upon request*

1. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Operationalizing the Humanitarian– Development–Peace Nexus: Lessons Learned from Colombia, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia and Turkey (2019), https://publications.iom.int/fr/system/files/pdf/operationalizing\_hdpn.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Department of International Development (DIFID), Guidance on strengthening disability inclusion in Humanitarian Response Plans (2019) https://reliefweb.int/report/world/guidance-strengthening-disability-inclusion-humanitarian-response-plans [↑](#footnote-ref-2)