

Summary

Checklist to ensure the meaningful engagement of young persons with disabilities in humanitarian action



November 2023

This is a summary of the "Checklist to ensure the meaningful engagement of young persons with disabilities in humanitarian action", please refer to the main document for more details.



Young persons with disabilities are 15-24 years olds with long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which, in interaction with various social barriers, may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others¹.

Cross-cutting considerations:

Human rights-based approach

According to the [UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#) disability is a result of the interaction between a person's diverse characteristics and the barriers imposed by society.

Gender equality and intersectionality

Consider factors, which shape the impacts of humanitarian crisis to the capacities and lives of young persons with disabilities.

Accessibility

Accessibility is a prerequisite for persons with disabilities to participate meaningfully. It means equal access to information, spaces, and communications.

Autonomous decision-making

The CRPD (Art.12) recognizes that persons with disabilities have the right to “Enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life” and should have access to “the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity”.

Participatory approach

In line with the motto of the global disability rights movement “nothing about us, without us”, representation of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs)², young persons with disabilities from the community, youth networks and women-led organizations should be ensured throughout the humanitarian response cycle.

Meaningful Youth Engagement (MYE)

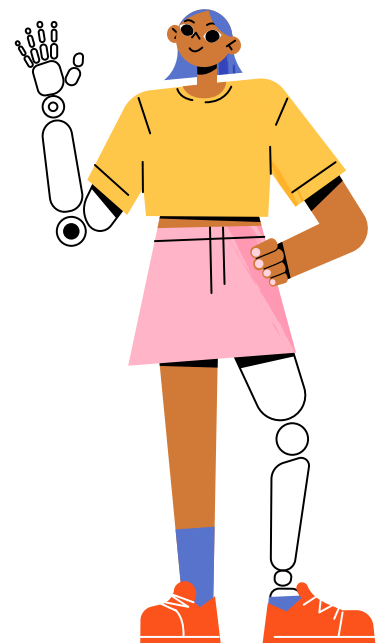
Youth should be involved in decision-making and policymaking processes in a way that is meaningful and prevents tokenism.

‘Do no harm’ principle

This calls upon humanitarian actors to act in ways that do not generate negative consequences and that keep young people safe from any form of harm. This includes ensuring that Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), discrimination and harassment are accessible and in place.

Disability-inclusive budgeting

This key element within humanitarian response ensures projects include and target young persons with disabilities, have specific indicators to track progress and a specific budget for disability inclusion.



Key steps for disability-inclusive and youth-sensitive humanitarian response



1st Step Needs assessment



Find available information³. Ensure you have statistics/data on people affected by the earthquake disaggregated by age, gender, disability, race/ethnicity and nationality.

- Ensure disability-disaggregated data with the leadership and support of UN agencies (e.g., OCHA), INGOs, Clusters or Working Groups coordinating the humanitarian response.
- Among other tools, include the [Washington Group Short Set of Questions \(WG-SS\)](#) into data collection tools. The Washington Group's UNICEF Child Functioning Module (CFM) for ages 5– 17 can also be used.
- Ensure this data is consulted, validated, and shared with OPDs, youth-led networks and organizations and women-led organizations.

Collect new information at the onset of the crisis. This includes mapping the following key actors/stakeholders and availability and accessibility of services:

- State entities: Government entities responsible for many disability-related provisions (e.g., Ministry of Family and Social Services and Health Ministry). Focus on the local level actors as these are first responders and entities that people attend to during a crisis.
- Service-providers: Depending on the most relevant sectors, identify services and providers responding to the need of young persons with disabilities^{4,5}.
- Civil-society organizations: Map OPDs, youth networks, women-led organizations, etc.
- International Organizations: Map UN Entities/INGOs/coordination mechanisms that are working on disability inclusion and/or in humanitarian response.

2nd Step Analysis



A disability-inclusive analysis in emergencies focuses on the impact of the crisis on persons with and without disabilities. It compares the state of disability-issues prior to the crisis with how these issues have changed since the crisis occurred. An intersectional approach should complement this analysis.

- List the distinct capacities, needs and preferences of young persons with and without disabilities. Are they the same as before the crisis or have they changed?
- List the roles and responsibilities for young persons with disabilities.
- Who makes decisions about the use of resources? Are needs met equitably? Are certain groups of young persons with disabilities more affected by violence, than others (e.g., gender-based violence)?
- Note the dynamics between young persons with and without disabilities.

3rd Step Strategic response planning



Prioritize needs. Based on data collected and analyzed, prioritize one or two humanitarian sectors.

Plan the response. Based on priority needs and sectors, plan the response and ensure these needs are mainstreamed within existing response efforts. Consider including:

- Tailored activities, indicators and targets.
- Plan a budget for a) Mainstream and targeted activities for young persons with disabilities, b) Reasonable accommodation, c) Accessibility, d) Assistive devices and technologies, e) Accountability for Affected Populations, including accessible complaint mechanisms, and f) Safeguarding and protection⁶.
- Consider the provision of capacity-building on disability inclusion for UN agencies, State entities, service providers, OPDs and CSOs⁷.
- Ensure the response planning process involves and is consulted/validated with OPDs, disability activists, and youth-led networks and organizations.

4th Step Implementation



Implement the Humanitarian response in partnership with an OPD, a youth network or a women-led organization.

Throughout the response, consider: How many young persons with disabilities should receive humanitarian assistance, based on projects implemented and available budget? What kind of assistance should they receive? Is information accessible for young persons with disabilities?

5th Step

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting



- Identify what accessibility measures were taken during the response. What worked well? What can be improved?
- Create various feedback mechanisms including accessible surveys circulated with OPDs, youth networks, women-led organizations and among young persons with disabilities, as well as specific meetings and focus group discussions. Give direct responsibility on M&E and reporting to an implementing partner that is an OPD, youth network or women-led organization.
- Document good practices and lessons learnt together with young persons with disabilities throughout the humanitarian project cycle.
- Use this checklist as an advocacy tool within the UN, and among State entities and donors.



- 1 [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#). Article 1 - Purpose
- 2 “Organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) are non-governmental organizations led, directed and governed by persons with disabilities, who should compose a clear majority of their membership”. Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, General comment No. 7 (2018) on the participation of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, through their representative organizations, in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, CRPD/C/GC/7, para. 11.
- 3 OCHA. [Türkiye: 2023 Earthquakes Situation Report No. 17](#). May 6, 2023; UNICEF. [Türkiye Humanitarian Situation Report No.13 \(Earthquake\)](#), 18 May 2023; UNFPA. [Türkiye/Syria Earthquake Joint Situation Report #2](#). April 3, 2023
- 4 Türkiye's UN Disability Inclusion Task Team has developed [a mapping of specialized services for persons with disabilities](#)
- 5 [Minimum Initial Service Package for SRH in Crisis](#)
- 6 Some UN agencies use Specific Needs Codes on Disability to identify and flag individuals facing specific protection risks. For further guidance on the use of these codes refer to: [UNHCR Specific Needs Codes – Disability Guidance | UNHCR](#) [UNHCR Specific Needs Codes – Disability Interview Guide | UNHCR](#).
- 7 Türkiye Disability Inclusion Task Team - [Tips on disability-inclusive emergency response](#)