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# Resolution of the European Disability Forum calling for inclusive and participatory response to ongoing humanitarian crises

**Document for decision**

The General Assembly of the European Disability Forum met on the 22nd of May 2023. Further to the [June 2022 resolution](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/emergency-resolution-calling-for-peace/) approved at the General Assembly, the European Disability Forum wishes to bring attention again to humanitarian crises around the world and their continued disproportionate impact on persons with disabilities.

These include but are not limited to the wars in [Sudan](https://www.disabilitydebrief.org/debrief/we-are-not-alone/), [Ukraine](https://www.edf-feph.org/ukraine/), and [Armenia/Azerbaijan](https://www.edf-feph.org/joint-statement-about-the-attacks-on-the-armenian-border/); the earthquake in [Turkey and Syria](https://www.edf-feph.org/earthquake-in-turkiye-and-syria-urgent-measures-required-to-support-persons-with-disabilities/); and the flooding in [Pakistan](https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/content/international-disability-alliance%E2%80%99s-statement-situation-persons-disabilities-affected-floods) and [Italy](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/may/18/italy-worst-flooding-in-100-years-emilia-romagna).

This discrimination faced by persons with disabilities is neither new nor unique. Policy and tools already exist which call for inclusive disaster preparedness and response. Yet, the disability community continues to see little progress in their implementation.

The European Disability Forum therefore calls again on national governments, the European Union and the United Nations to:

* Prioritise meaningful participation of organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs/DPOs) in all humanitarian decision-making processes. This is a legal obligation under Article 4.3 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and is reinforced in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Global Compact on Refugees.
* Recognise the role that OPDs/DPOs are already playing in the response to these crises, provide them with support where it is necessary and use these examples as best practice.
* Take urgent steps toward effective implementation of the [IASC guidelines on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/iasc-guidelines-on-inclusion-of-persons-with-disabilities-in-humanitarian-action-2019), at all stages of the humanitarian programme cycle.
* Disaggregate assessment and monitoring data by gender, age and disability using the [Washington Group questions](https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/question-sets/), in order to understand the impact of the event on all of the population and how to reach everybody in response.
* Prioritise requirements of those who are most at risk, including children, women, persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities, deafblind persons, persons with high support needs, and those confined to institutional settings.
* Recognise that persons with disabilities, especially women and girls, are more at risk of gender-based violence, including human trafficking, and include their needs, rights and perspectives in programmes and policies developed to combat gender-based violence and human trafficking during wars and other humanitarian crisis.
* Continue and improve ongoing support for people fleeing to EU countries, including in the implementation of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum and the revision of the EU migration rules.
* Prioritise persons with disabilities for immediate access to basic needs, including evacuation, food, shelter, health, medical supplies, and effective technical assistance.
* Provide all information in accessible format.
* Dedicate specific budget to accessibility and reasonable accommodation for inclusion of persons with disabilities from the very beginning of all initiatives, from response to reconstruction.
* Ensure that all UN Cluster activities are also consistently inclusive of persons with disabilities (especially Protection, Shelter, Health, WASH, Camp Coordination and Management and Education).
* Build capacity and knowledge of the rights and specific needs of persons with disabilities across peacekeeping and peacebuilding actors, including at international, regional and national levels.
* Prioritise accessible reconstruction, rebuilding societies that are more inclusive and resilient, as stressed in Goal 11 of The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).