

**EDF written input ahead of EU-Ukraine Human Rights Dialogue 2023**

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Persons with disabilities are exposed to greater risk in humanitarian contexts, especially in situations of armed conflicts. It is essential to recognize that conflicts such as the war in Ukraine have a disproportionate impact on specific groups in society, including women, youth, older people and persons with disabilities.

We would like to draw attention to the ongoing trauma and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities because of this war, and the need to ensure that the humanitarian response, the recovery and reconstruction work and the EU accession process result in a more inclusive society.

**We strongly urge the EU and its Member States to take into consideration the following, during the EU-Ukraine Human Rights Dialogue:**

1. **Participation: Ensure meaningful participation of representative organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs/DPOs) in all decision-making processes at all steps of the humanitarian program cycle, including the planning, implementation and monitoring processes. In line with article 4.3 and 33.3 of the CRPD.**  
   In this process it is fundamental to pay particular attention to include those 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).
2. **Accessibility: Build Back Better a resilient and inclusive society. Identify and use relevant architectural, infrastructural, and information accessibility as key components of the reconstruction process in Ukraine and make this one of the conditions for financial support of rebuilding programs.**   
   Implementation of relevant accessibility guidelines is key, including the principles of Universal Design and Barrier-Free Environment to ensure all new reconstruction is accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes building accessible housing within the general housing stock, barrier-free streets, transport, information and communication systems and public buildings.
3. **Community based, person centred services and support: Avoid funding the building or refurbishment of residential, segregating, institutions and use best practice examples of community-based living for children and adults with disabilities in Ukraine.**  
   It is fundamental to support independent living of persons with disabilities in the community by ensuring that resources are not spent to perpetuate segregation of persons with disabilities in residential institutions. Building person centred services and support for persons with disabilities is key. This includes accessible general public services (education, health care etc.) and relevant disability-specific services.
4. **Data: Disaggregate population data by disability using the Washington Group questions. This can be done by developing methodologies for the collection of disaggregated data on inter-sectionalism and risk, including sex, age and disability.**   
   Make sure that persons with disabilities are identified in all settings, including these living independently at home, these living in segregated institutions, these internally displaced, and these who have fled to other countries.

In order to be effective, these objectives need to be addressed - with allocation of specific budget - at the very beginning of all planning and decision-making processes.

**Last articles and reports on Ukraine:**

[One year of war: persons with disabilities in Ukraine](https://www.edf-feph.org/one-year-of-war-persons-with-disabilities-in-ukraine/)

[Rights of persons with disabilities during the war in Ukraine. Summary of monitoring report](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-during-the-war-in-ukraine-summary-of-monitoring-report/)

[Bridging the Gaps - four studies on Ukrainian children with disabilities](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/bridging-the-gaps-four-studies-on-ukrainian-children-with-disabilities/)

[Riga Declaration on a Peaceful and Disability-Inclusive Ukraine](https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/riga-declaration/)