



International Conference The inclusion of disability into emergency projects

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UNHCR's Mandate



In the Gate Lakes Region impairment and disability are increased due to protracted conflict, physical violence, torture, rape, unexploded ordnances (UXO) and landmines, as well as consequences of preventable childhood diseases and injuries caused by natural disasters.

- ❖ Globally, UNHCR has presence in 123 countries and provides protection and assistance to over 60 million refugees, returnees, IDPs and stateless persons.
- ❖ Historically, with funding received from the Nobel Peace Prize, UNHCR established the Trust Fund for Handicapped Refugees in 1981.
- ❖ More recently, in 2011, UNHCR developed for it's staff and partners the Need to Know Guidance on Working with Persons with Disabilities in Forced Displacement.

Measures taken to facilitate access to fundamental rights, according to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



- ❖ Early screening and identification of PWD is undertaken by UNHCR and its partners upon arrival and during follow-up registration.
- ❖ During both the design, subsequent response and monitoring phase, PWD's are not only consulted and involved, but given clear leadership roles!
- ❖ Humanitarian actors must make every effort to create and sustain an inclusive environment for persons with disabilities, and for their caregivers, families and communities.
- ❖ The main tool UNHCR is using is the longstanding consultations process called AGDM (age, gender and diversity mainstreaming), in which PWD are fully integrated. To ensure mainstreaming inclusiveness and non-discrimination, a multi-sectoral approach is adopted and persons with disabilities are integrated into the different review groups.
- ❖ A special effort is made to support self-reliance. For this it is critical to effectively advocate for equal opportunities in favor of persons with disabilities during employment selection and access to livelihood activities

Data on Persons with Disabilities within the refugees populations under the care of UNHCR Regional Office & Reg. Coordination for the GL Region



Country of asylum	Country of origin				Total
	BDI	RWA	CAR	DRC	
Dem. Rep. of Congo	93	149	685		927
Rwanda	511			2,265	2,776
Tanzania	1,949			803	2,752
Rep. of Congo		278	151	367	796
Zambia	21			97	118
Gabon				1	1
Total	2,574	427	836	3,533	7,370
Total Refugees	204,104	125,791	133,203	180,385	643,483
Percentage	1.26%	0.34%	0.63%	1.96%	1.15%

Of the 60 million refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in the world, WHO estimates that around 10% of the global population, are living with disability.

Examples of some of the key challenges in the Grate Lakes Region, including in the DRC



- ❖ Limited access to specialized medical care, including for children, with disabilities.
- ❖ Limited access to livelihood opportunities and to specialized educational services/institutions.
- ❖ Limited participation for some (severe cases) in discussions and accessing direct information.
- ❖ Difficulties in finding disability-friendly housing in urban areas for urban refugees.
- ❖ Lack of specialized training to better communicate and participate especially those with speech/hearing impairment.
- ❖ Poor physical accessibility of the service-delivery points: as an example latrines design did not take into account PWD conditions (Tanzania).

Key Issue



- ❖ Based on the realization that - by and large - implementation and application of both policy and guiding notes remains limited, mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities by raising awareness, as well as provide a more supportive and fully inclusive environment.
- ❖ A serious effort needs to be undertaken to have more accurate data on both in terms of their numbers, as well as specific needs of persons with disability. Shortage of funding is a challenge!
- ❖ Capacity building for members of the association of persons with disability with support of Initiative for Refugees with Disability (IRD), a local association.

The Ask - Expectations and Way Forward



- ❖ Seek active involvement of Disabled Peoples Organizations (DPOs).
- ❖ Seek a Peer Reviews of to identify gaps and put in place concrete measures, according to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its operational protocol (CRPD).
- ❖ Apply the Sendai recommendations on Inclusive Disaster Preparedness and Response, considering the high risk of natural disasters in North Kivu.

On a more practical note, address gaps in established refugee/IDP camp settings, by:

- ❖ Ensure physical accessibility in schools and vocational training for persons with disabilities.
- ❖ Establish at least one well-equipped orthopedic workshop with equipment and necessary raw materials to produce appliances to facilitate mobility, and other forms of facilitation.
- ❖ Increased sensitization in various communities in favor of persons with disabilities.
- ❖ Provide specialized training to staff in order to facilitate communication persons with disabilities.

THANK YOU



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