

Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID)

COVID-19 Guidance Note

*Latest Update: 15 May 2020 (Updated sections are marked as '**UPDATE**')*

As the COVID-19 pandemic spreads around the world, many CBM CBID partners are concerned and are looking for guidance on what CBID programmes could do to more effectively support people with disabilities in their communities during these challenging times.

It is well documented that people with disabilities are amongst the most vulnerable population in a pandemic, as they often may not be able to fully implement the required self-protection and hygiene or might end up in inappropriate health care environments. In the current context, many people with disabilities have an increased risk of contracting COVID-19 (e.g. difficulty of accessing a sink, need to touch their face more often) and may have more difficulty in acting social distancing or self-isolation (e.g. because they need to remain in close contact with other people who support them). In addition, many people with disabilities have an increased risk of developing a severe case due to underlying health conditions and they experience barriers in accessing appropriate health care and support once they have contracted COVID-19.

[Catalina Devandas, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) has reminded governments that little has been done to provide people with disabilities with the guidance and support needed to protect them during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, even though many of them are part of the high risk group.

However, the challenges communities face with this pandemic cannot be met by central government institutions alone, without the active involvement of persons with disabilities and their families, local government, community based civil society groups and private sector stakeholders. Providing access to informed and appropriate technical and financial support is key so that communities can effectively mobilize and organize to identify appropriate priorities and actions while working in partnership with local and national stakeholders.

It is crucial that essential community awareness is promoted in accessible and acceptable ways, involving the targeted groups in the design and implementation of community responses.

To support CBM's CBID partners, a "[Disability Inclusive Community Action – COVID-19 Matrix](#)" has been developed with the aim to provide community

programmes guidance on possible action points in community development and mobilization in relation to COVID-19 preparedness and response. The matrix is not intended to be a comprehensive implementation tool. It rather aims at providing brief and clear action points, that can easily be adapted to the local context and give CBID programme managers anchors for engaging with local governments and service providers and holding them accountable.

The action points as listed in the matrix emphasise the importance of pro-active community development responses and encourage community stakeholders to work collaboratively to develop a suite of inclusive and community driven responses to the COVID-19 challenge.

Many development actors might currently feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of COVID-19 related information that is currently disseminated by many stakeholders. Below is a short list of quality resources on disability and COVID-19 that you might wish to explore (all links checked on 14 May 2020):

General as well as easy-to-read resources:

- **UPDATE** The International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) organise [weekly briefings on Disability and the Corona virus](#). The weekly briefings usually take place on Mondays at 12pm CEST and 6pm CEST. IDA and IDDC are setting up a list of potential speakers for future briefings. Speakers should be able to talk about COVID-19 related topics. We are invited to suggest speakers. Speakers can be CBM staff, CBM partner staff, disability activists. Please send your suggestions to the IDDC coordinator coordinator@iddcconsortium.net. Suggestions should be submitted by CBM staff only.
- **UPDATE** The UN Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities is inviting to participate in five regional focus group discussions exploring how the pandemic has affected living conditions, access to health care, employment, and information for persons with disabilities. [You can register through this survey](#).
- [International Association for Community Development \(IACD\) resources on community response to COVID-19](#)
- [IDA webpage content on COVID-19 and the disability movement](#)
- [Recommendations for immediate COVID-19 actions from the World Institute on Disability](#)
- [Easy to read information on Covid-19 from Inclusion Europe \(available in various languages\)](#)
- [COVID 19 information video for deaf people from Mill Neck International \(international sign language\)](#)
- [Easy to read COVID-19 booklet from the Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center \(SARTAC\)](#). It was written by and for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities: [English version](#), [Spanish version](#)

Practical tools for assessment and action planning

- [Practical tools for a disability inclusive COVID-19 response](#) (issued by the Dutch Coalition on Disability and Development)
- [The results of the First International Survey on People with Disabilities and COVID-19](#) undertaken by the NGO Inclusiva
- [Global rapid gender analysis for COVID-19](#), prepared by Care and IRC
- [Tool to adjust Saving Groups programmes to COVID-19](#), prepared by the SEEP network
- WHO Tool: This tool is designed to support responders to develop, implement and monitor an effective action plan for communicating effectively with the public, engaging with communities, local partners and other stakeholders to help prepare and protect individuals, families and the public's health during the early response to COVID-19. [Click here.](#)

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

- [Global WASH Cluster Covid-19 resources](#)

Livelihood:

- [MERS \(Minimum Economic Recovery Standards\) Guidance in Response to COVID-19 webinar recording](#)

Child protection in Covid-19 response:

- [Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action: Technical note on protection of children in Covid-19 response](#) (various language versions available)
- [Joint Statement Responding to the Safeguarding and Protection Needs of Deaf Children and Youth during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (World Federation of the Deaf, DeafKidz International)

Education:

- [Collated Disability and Education COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [Education resources in COVID-19 response from USAID](#)
- [UNICEF guidance to support safe schools](#) (in English, Spanish, French)

Gender:

- [Collection of Gender and COVID-19 Resources](#) (from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health)

UN response (statements and response plans)

The Secretary-General has launched the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan, which explicitly includes persons with disabilities. In his remarks during the launch, the Secretary-General highlighted the situation of persons with disabilities in relation to the response, as well as planning for the future. Links below will be regularly updated by the UN agencies.

- **UPDATE** [WHO resources on Mental Health and COVID-19](#)
- UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief "A Disability-Inclusive Response to COVID-1", released on 6 May 2020: [The Policy Brief is available here](#), [accessible formats](#) and the [Secretary General video is available here](#)
- [IASC interim COVID-19 guidance focusing on "Public Health and Social Measures for COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Operations in Low Capacity and Humanitarian Settings"](#)
- [Link Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#)
- [UN statement specifically highlighting actions related to Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [WHO statement on COVID-19 and persons with disabilities](#)
- [25 March 2019 Secretary General remarks](#)

Annexes:

- [Disability Inclusive Community Action COVID19 matrix V1.0.pdf](#)
- [Disability Inclusive Community Action COVID19 matrix V1.0 Accessible.docx](#)
- [Acción Comunitaria Inclusiva Matriz Covid-19 V1.0 Spanish.pdf](#)
- [Acción Comunitaria Inclusiva Matriz COVID19 V1.0 Spanish Accessible.docx](#)
- [Mobilisation communautaire inclusive matrice COVID19 Français V1.0.pdf](#)
- [Mobilisation communautaire inclusive matrice COVID19 Français V1.0 Accessible.docx](#)
- [Guidance for CBR CBID workers in the Covid 19 pandemic - Status 11 May 2020.pdf](#)

Please note that this guidance note is a living document that will be regularly updated as the situation evolves