



# CHARTER ON INCLUSION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

[humanitariandisabilitycharter.org](http://humanitariandisabilitycharter.org)

The Charter defines the **political will and intended course of action to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities**, in line with the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Developed in a multi-stakeholder and participative way, it was **launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 in Istanbul, at the presence of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**, who defined it *“a groundbreaking Charter that places people with disabilities at the heart of humanitarian decision-making”*.

The Charter has been **endorsed by more than 200 stakeholders** including 25 States, the European Union, several UN agencies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, national and international networks, NGOs and organisations of persons with disabilities.

A multi-stakeholder group is supporting the implantation of its commitments, including through the development of **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action**.

## WHAT DOES THE CHARTER SAY?

The Charter expresses the endorsers' will to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to humanitarian response, both in terms of protection and assistance, without discrimination, and allowing them to fully enjoy their rights. This applies to all situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and to all phases of a humanitarian response.

The Charter is grounded on the existing provisions under International Human Rights Law, especially the UN CRPD, and International Humanitarian Law. It further aims to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction.

**The Charter identifies five commitments to make humanitarian action inclusive of persons with disabilities.** The commitments are described in an actionable way, aiming to provide the political leadership required to achieve progress.

### THE COMMITMENTS

1. Non-discrimination
2. Participation
3. Inclusive policy
4. Inclusive response and services
5. Cooperation and coordination

### KEY FIGURES

**75%** of persons with disabilities living in emergency contexts have no adequate access to essential basic services such as water, shelter, food or health.

**92%** of humanitarian actors estimate that persons with disabilities are not properly taken into account in the response.

*“Disability in humanitarian contexts: views from affected people and field organizations”*  
Humanity & Inclusion, July 2015

### WHY A CHARTER?

The one billion persons with disabilities worldwide, of whom 80% live in the Global South, are among the most marginalized in crisis-affected communities, disproportionately impacted by disaster and conflict. They face particular barriers in accessing life-saving relief and recovery support. Making sure that they have access to services essential for their survival, protection and recovery requires deliberate action from the humanitarian community. It relates to the humanitarian principles of humanity and impartiality as well as the human rights principles of equity and non-discrimination.

The Charter proposes concrete solutions to address these challenges, pointing at policy and operational commitments to ensure a coherent, accountable and effective approach towards inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

Endorse the Charter on: [humanitariandisabilitycharter.org](http://humanitariandisabilitycharter.org)  
Contact: [info@humanitariandisabilitycharter.org](mailto:info@humanitariandisabilitycharter.org)