Partnership: Gender + Disability to Address COVID-19

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Persons with disabilities face more discrimination and barriers during COVID-19.
GBV against women and girls with disabilities increases during COVID-19.
Persons with disabilities have the same rights to SRHR.
1 in 7 people is a person with disability

During COVID-19, persons with disabilities face more discrimination, violence, and barriers to accessing information, education and services related to gender-based violence and sexual and reproductive health.

Women and girls with disabilities are at higher risk

COVID-19 response must engage organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) and networks in decision making.

During COVID-19, GBV among women and girls with disabilities increases due to social isolation, disrupted routines and if caregivers can’t reach them.

X3
Persons with disabilities are 3 times more likely to experience different forms of violence than persons without disabilities.

COVID-19 persons with disabilities key messages

To prevent GBV during COVID-19, persons with disabilities should be able to use accessible hotlines, reach trusted family and caregivers and have persons who check on them to ensure their safety.

During COVID-19, persons with disabilities face discrimination and barriers to access information, education and services.

Persons with disabilities have the same rights to SRHR on an equal basis as others during COVID-19.

UNFPA
Caecid
WE Decide
UNFPA’s priorities during COVID-19 has been to:

- ensure uninterrupted access to life saving services related to SRHR and GBV
- exercise reproductive rights including CSE
- highlight the ‘gendered’ implications of the pandemic
- safety from harmful practices
- using demographic intelligence to help understand and address the challenges
- engage young people in COVID response
- highlight the importance of promoting and protecting the rights of marginalized populations including persons with disabilities
Building on UNFPA’s efforts on disability inclusion especially the *WE DECIDE* Initiative, and with UNWomen’s existing work

With the opportunity that the UNPRPD Programme to Supporting Disability Inclusive COVID-19 Response and Recovery at the National Level – UNFPA, UNWomen, and WEI joined forces

Key area of cooperation on Gender Based Violence – building on existing partnership between UNFPA and UNWomen

Both entities bring specific strengths – able to maximize the funding opportunity, share substantive expertise, operational cooperation, joint strategizing

Entities will always have mandate specific work but can collaborate on other areas that are best achieved together – UNPRPD type mechanisms

Through the UNPRPD multi-donor TF, UN entities are able to bring together respective key strengths to address common goal
Setbacks:
- gender equality and women and girls’ rights further threatened
- women and girls disproportionately impacted from socio-economic point of view, as health care workers, care burden, increased GBV
- Future financial forecast and impact on programming for women and girls

Opportunities:
- can build back better
- can forge even stronger partnerships
- and bring development-humanitarian-peace nexus to consider

Joint approach key for efficient use of resources, avoiding duplication, and coordination
Building Back Better For All
UNPRPD Global Programme Supporting Disability Inclusive COVID-19 Response and Recovery at National Level

Programme brief

The COVID-19 pandemic is disproportionately affecting persons with disabilities, who are often invisible, excluded, and more at risk of feeling the shocks from weak health, basic services and social protection systems. The response to this crisis must, therefore, consider the pre-existing marginalisation, discrimination, exclusion, and inequalities of persons with disabilities to ensure that they are not even further left behind.

This global joint programme leverages the experience of 8 UN agencies, organizations of persons with disabilities and broader civil society to support countries and other global initiatives to incorporate a strong disability inclusive perspective to COVID-19 response and recovery.

The programme will work closely with 20-30 country teams and will expand its outreach to other countries through the generation of guidance and practical tools.

Expected Results

→ UNCTs have better understanding and capacity to develop and support a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19.

→ ODGs are supported to engage in planning, implementation and monitoring of a disability-inclusive response to COVID-19 emergency.

→ Evidence, analysis and programmatic guidance is generated for countries to design and implement inclusive recovery plans.

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Implementing partners
International Disability Alliance
UNDP
UNICEF
UN Women
World Health Organization