



INTERNATIONAL DAY of Persons with Disabilities 3 December, 2020

Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive,
accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World



Association of International NGOs in Nepal
An informal network of INGOs working in Nepal

Context & issues

- In every seven persons, one person has some kind of disability in the world and one in five in the developing countries (WHO disability report, 2011),
- Three in every 20 people have functional limitation and one in every five people with functional limitation are children in Nepal (UNICEF, Child and Household Tracker: Baseline Findings, 2020).

Health and Disability

- Four persons in every five people with disability expressed increased mental health problems due to Covid-19 (Rapid assessment report, National Federation of the Disabled Nepal, 2020)
- One in every two people with disability are unable to access health support from local government (Rapid assessment report, Handicap International, 2020).
- Three in every 10 persons are looking for immediate medical support (NFDN)
- 15 to 17 persons in every 20 of developing countries do not receive treatment of their mental health problems.
- People with mental health disorder and intellectual impairments have lower life expectancy.
- One in every two persons with disability are unable to afford health care.

Food Security/Livelihood and Disability

- One in every four persons with disability do not have stock food in this COVID situation (HI)
- Two in every five people with disabilities lost their income/job after lockdown, one in every five thinks of losing job in near future (NFDN)
- Nine people in every 10 people with disability are food insecure due to covid-19 (NFDN)

Education and Disability

- Only five in every 10 persons with disability completes primary education whereas only three in every 10 females with disability completes primary education in low income countries (without disability - six in every 10). In Nepal, three out of 10 children with disability are attending school (UNICEF)
- Five to eight children with disabilities never attend school in developing countries (CBS, 2011).
- Only one child in every three children with disability promoted from grade five to six in Nepal (Nepal government)
- The Covid-19 pandemic is likely to further increase inequality in education.

WASH and Disability

- One in every 13 people with disability are not practicing hand washing or sanitizers (HI)
- One in every two persons with disability do not have masks and soaps for next two weeks (HI)
- Two persons in every five people with disability needs sanitary/hygiene materials, catheter or sanitary pads (HI)

Protection and Disability

- One person in every 33 people with disability experience violence against them (NFDN)
- Only 12% families with functional limitation received disability allowances (UNICEF, 2020)
- One in every two persons with disability needs care givers. However, the care giving support to three persons in every 10 people with disability stopped due to Covid-19 (HI)

Risk Communication and Community Engagement and Disability

- One in every 14 persons with disability are unaware of Covid-19 precautionary measures (HI)
- Half of the population with disability do not well aware about Covid-19 pandemic (NFDN)
- Three persons in every 20 people with disability do not find accessible information. One in every two people with disability finds leaser accessible covid-19 related information (NFDN)
- Four persons in every five people with disability do not have information about relief support from local governments and non-governmental organizations (HI)

Issue

Impairment + barriers = disability (creates exclusion)

Can be solved by

Impairment (person with no legs) + **accessible environment** (access to devices & disability friendly environment) = **Increase ability (makes inclusion¹)**

Suggested way forward

- Focus to identify the need of all types of persons with disabilities especially of severe and complete disabilities with inclusive and accessible tools/instruments
- Adopt inclusive tools in risk communication and community engagement interventions
- Prioritize people with disabilities in Covid-19 response and rehabilitation
- Identify major barriers faced by persons with disabilities e.g. related to communication, physical, attitudinal & institutional) & apply "Reasonable Accommodation²" and **universal design³** principles to address this Please refer the **accessibility guideline⁴** of Nepal.
- Engage with the persons with disabilities and their organizations /groups for designing and delivering the prevention and response plans
- Provide cash or voucher supports to meet variety of households needs of people with disability and their families
- Facilitate and collaborate with government and non-governmental organizations to provide psychosocial counselling and psychotropic medicine for people with psychosocial problems.
- Ensure the COVID 19 prevention and response plans are purposeful with the special considerations (by plans & budgets) for the inclusion of persons with disabilities

Reference

- National Federation of Disabled Organization [NFDN] (2020). Impact of Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown on persons with disabilities: Rapid Assessment Report. https://nfdn.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NFDN-Nepal_IMPACT-OF-COVID-19-PANDEMIC-AND-LOCKDOWN-Checked-Accessibility.pdf
- Handicap International (2020). Nepal Covid-19 Rapid Need Assessment Report.
- Unicef (2020). Child and Household Tracker: Baseline Findings)
- World disability report 2011: <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/665131468331271288/pdf/627830WP0World00PUBLIC00BOX361491B0.pdf> (29 Page, 6 par)

Appealing all the stakeholders to join hands for: Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World

Disability Working Group (DWG) member organisations

1 https://www.cbm.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/CBM-DID-TOOLKIT-accessible.pdf, page 12

2 necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms (UNCRPD- <https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convoptprot-e.pdf>)

3 the design of products, environments, programmes and services to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design. "Universal design" shall not exclude assistive devices for particular groups of persons with disabilities where this is needed (UNCRPD- page 4, last par)

4 <https://mowcsc.gov.np/uploads/uploads/YDtuLrhQdQoyA6nyzZ0Qvo0UjnhHwmwQzrHs3gYyO.pdf>