



# DATF

## Disability and Age Task Force

Joint messages for the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

### Key facts and figures

- Disability is part of the human experience and almost everyone is likely to experience some form of disability at some point in life.
- Nearly one in every 7 people has some form of disability.
- The prevalence of disability is even higher in situations of forced displacement owing to an increased number of persons with injuries, lack of access to quality medical services and the creation of new environmental barriers.
- In Jordan, the 2019 Vulnerability Assessment Framework population study found that 21% of refugees surveyed had at least one form of disability and 45% of households surveyed had one or more members with at least one disability.
- Persons with disabilities are among the most affected populations amid the COVID-19 pandemic. They face more discrimination, marginalization, social isolation, and barriers to accessing information, education and basic services and are often excluded from support and opportunities.
- The pandemic increased risks of poor outcomes for persons with disabilities with reduced access to routine health care and rehabilitation services and inadequate access to psycho-social care.
- Persons with disabilities are three times more likely to face physical, sexual, and emotional violence than people without disabilities. Women with disabilities are ten times more likely to experience sexual violence.

### For communities

- Women, girls, men and boys with disabilities have a rich range of experiences, capacities, and aspirations, and contribute in different ways to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities. Recognize and support the talents and potential of people with disabilities and support their inclusion in community activities.
- Everyone has the right to a self-determined life and the right to work. Recognize the agency of persons with disabilities and their capacity to make their own decisions and respect their priorities and decisions.
- People with disabilities have the right to take an active part in leadership roles in the political and social life of their communities. Be an advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities to assume leadership positions. Your voice can support and amplify the rights of persons with disabilities in your community and country in the post-COVID-19 world.

### For humanitarian actors

- Persons with disabilities remain amongst the most invisible groups in humanitarian action. They are often left out of mainstream humanitarian assistance and are unable to access the targeted interventions they need, as they encounter various environmental, institutional, and attitudinal barriers. Humanitarian actors must ensure that humanitarian services are accessible to people with disabilities in order to

reduce unacceptable access inequalities and partner with disability actors who can deliver training and capacity building to staff.

- The specific requirements of persons with disabilities are often overlooked, and they, particularly women, children and older persons with disabilities, are at higher risks of participation restrictions and social exclusion and marginalization. Engage in consultations with persons with disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities to understand and remove barriers to participation and support them in engaging in decision-making processes.
- Many people with disabilities are unemployed compared to their peers without disabilities. Education opportunities and vocational training and skills development are essential for people with disabilities. Ensure that an adequate proportion of participants of livelihoods and education projects are persons with disabilities, with dedicated funding to address their specific requirements and access barriers. Promote independence and self-reliance through empowerment of people with disabilities.

### For decision-makers

- Revise laws and policies to ensure that non-Jordanians with disabilities living in Jordan have their rights protected.
- People with disabilities have been disproportionately affected during the COVID-19 pandemic and face barriers to access health care services, including difficulties associated with mobility restrictions and attitudinal barriers. Health care facilities must scale up disability inclusion at all levels, particularly in terms of primary health care.

### DATF members

