DATF

Disability and Age Task Force (DATF)

Terms of Reference for Focal Points on Disability and Age Inclusion (FPDA)

Background

Persons with disabilities and older people have the same rights and basic needs as others and face the same challenges as persons without disabilities and younger people. In situations of forced displacement, they are also at higher risks of violence, abuse, neglect, isolation, and exploitation, as well as stigma. Refugees with disabilities and older refugees may also face barriers in their country of asylum to access services and are often excluded from education and income-generating opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated barriers faced by persons with disabilities and older people and created additional challenges with the disruption of services, social support networks and community life.

In Jordan, UNHCR's ProGres registration system indicates that 4.1 per cent of the total refugee population has a disability. Several assessments and surveys point to a higher percentage of persons with disabilities among the registered refugee population. Two studies conducted in 2018 and 2019[1] used the Washington Group Questions sets to interview a sample of the Syrian population and found that the prevalence of disabilities among Syrians was 22.9 and 21 per cent, respectively. The 2019 study showed that the prevalence of disability was even higher at the household level, with 45% of households reporting a member with at least one disability.

In regard to older refugees, UNHCR's ProGres data indicates that 4,8 per cent of the total refugee population in Jordan is above 60 years of age. However, families and communities often use other socio-cultural references to define age (i.e. family status, physical appearance or age-related health conditions). The toll of traumatic experiences associated with conflict and forced displacement, combined with poor nutrition and exposure to disease, can lead to a faster ageing of the refugee population. Consequently, many challenges associated with older age may become apparent in refugees who are under 60 years of age.

Despite the various commitments in recent years to better reach persons with disabilities and older people in humanitarian and development responses, and local initiatives to support disability and older age inclusion, displaced people with disabilities and older people continue to struggle with exclusion and

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[1] In 2018, a study by Humanity & Inclusion and iMMAP showed that 22.9 per cent of Syrian refugees above two years old surveyed have disabilities (30,5 per cent in Zaatari camp; 23,5 per cent in Irbid; 13,8 per cent in Azraq Camp). In 2019, the Vulnerability Assessment Framework study conducted by UNHCR, Action Against Hunger and ILO, showed that 21 per cent of the surveyed Syrian population have at least one disability.

discrimination in Jordan. Challenges persist with the identification of refugees with disabilities, resulting in the absence or limited data related to disability; lack of disability and older age inclusive humanitarian and development interventions; and limited access to accessible information and services on an equal basis with others.

The Role of Focal Points on Disability and Age Inclusion

The main role of the Focal Points on Disability and Age Inclusion is to facilitate disability and ageing mainstreaming into the humanitarian and development response so persons with disabilities and older people can enjoy their rights on an equal basis with others. While some FPDAs may be directly involved in implementing disability and age-specific activities, their role should focus on supporting inter-agency bodies to mainstream disability and ageing, providing technical support and raising awareness on disability and ageing inclusion, and building the capacity of actors to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities and older people into the overall response. As disability and ageing are cross-cutting and multi-dimensional issues, two focal points are assigned to each sector working group and sub-working group involved in the refugee response; that is Health, Basic Needs, Food Security, Protection, WASH, Education, Livelihoods, Shelter, Inter-Agency Coordination, Gender-Based Violence, and Child Protection.

Main Responsibilities

1. Disability and Ageing Mainstreaming

- Support disability and ageing mainstreaming into the different sectors and throughout the humanitarian and development response, including through the Jordan Response Plan and the humanitarian and development programme cycle (planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation).
- Raise awareness of actors contributing to the humanitarian and development response, including during sector coordination meetings, about the overall situation of persons with disabilities and older people in Jordan, including challenges and concerns, any response gaps, as well as identified capacities and opportunities.
- Ensure that all responses are inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities and older people and consider their priorities and specific requirements, recognizing the intersectionality of age, gender, disability, and other factors.
- Promote the participation of persons with disabilities, older people, and caregivers/support persons in sector working groups meetings. Invite them to attend at least one sector working group meeting per year to share their concerns, experiences and solutions.
- Encourage actors to promote inclusivity of persons with disabilities and older people in sector events, training and activities.
- Ensure that sectors are conducting inclusion analysis and assessments and that disability and older age inclusion are reflected in sectors' indicators.

2. Technical Support

- Support the sector working group chairs in ensuring that the sectors' strategies, response plans and work plans are disability and age responsive.
- Provide technical support and recommendations on disability and ageing inclusion matters with support from DATF co-chairs to sector working groups and actors contributing to the humanitarian and development response.
- Support the sector leads in adopting the twin-track approach to program planning (disability-specific support and mainstreaming) using sector specific guidelines on universal design and reasonable adjustments. Support the integration of activities and budget for reasonable accommodation and universal design into program documents.
- Ensure disability and age is adequately mainstreamed in project proposals when participating in the sector technical review committee for the Jordan Humanitarian Fund (JIF).

3. Advocacy

- Advocate for the disaggregation of data on age, sex and disability in planning and reporting and for all humanitarian and development actors to collect and use data on persons with disabilities in program management processes.
- Advocate for disability-specific (e.g. rehabilitation, assistive devices, respite care) and inclusive indicators and targets in all relevant humanitarian and developmental response plans and programmes.
- Advocate for the use of the Washington Group questions in assessments.
- Advocate for non-discriminatory humanitarian response and for disability and ageing inclusion at all stages of the humanitarian response (design, implementation , including needs assessment, and monitoring and evaluation).

4. Coordination and Information Sharing

- Strengthen links and synergies between the DATF, sectors working groups, OPDs, academia, and civil society working on issues related to persons with disabilities and older people at the local and national levels.
- Attend their respective sector working groups meetings and DATF meetings and update the DATF on issues related to disability and ageing inclusion as discussed in working groups' meetings, highlighting any further action required by the DATF.
- Contribute to information sharing and the promotion of disability and ageing best practices to sector working groups. Actively share information and materials on disability and ageing inclusion with sector working groups.
- Identify sectors' needs for information and training on disability and older age inclusion in the humanitarian and development response and action with the support of sector leads.

The role of the DATF

The DATF is co-chaired by UNHCR and Humanity & Inclusion who are responsible for facilitating the coordination of the response to persons with disabilities and older people and providing technical

expertise regarding inclusion. HelpAge and JOHUD have been nominated as technical advisors on age as the task force incorporated age inclusion into its work in 2021.

The organizations co-chairing the DATF and the technical advisors on age will be responsible for the following activities regarding the focal points:

- Provide continuous technical support and capacity building to focal points regarding older age and disability inclusion.
- Ensure consistent information sharing between the DATF and focal points.
- Foster synergies and linkages between the DATF, focal points and coordination fora in urban and camp settings.
- Follow up and provide timely responses to feedback from focal points on their work.
- Send out two surveys per year to focal points to obtain their feedback on their work and challenges, and address any issues as needed.
- Organize regular DATF meetings with meaningful content and encourage the participation of various actors, including focal points and OPDs.

Definitions

Persons with Disabilities
Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. (Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities).

Older People
Older persons are defined as those aged 60 or over.

Intersectionality
Persons with disabilities and older people are not homogeneous groups. They are diverse in their experience, in the ways that barriers impede their participation and inclusion in humanitarian and development action, and in their identity, including their gender, ethnicity, location and race. Due to the intersectionality of these factors, persons with disabilities and older people often face greater marginalization and discrimination. Intersectionality is an analytic framework that demonstrates how forms of oppression (such as racism, sexism, ageism, ableism) overlap, defining unique social groups. An intersectional approach assumes that harms and violations associated with disability, race, age and ethnicity, gender, or other identities cannot be understood sufficiently by studying them separately. (adapted from the 2019 IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities on Humanitarian Action).

Annex 1. Key Approaches to Mainstreaming[2] Disability and Ageing in Sector Working Groups

Mainstreaming is a systematic process and a strategy through which the concerns and experiences of a particular group are considered in the overall operations and programming. Successful mainstreaming should lead to equality of outcomes for all groups and foster an inclusive response to the needs of people of all ages, gender, and diversities. Mainstreaming a human-rights based approach to disability and ageing will make the perspectives of persons with disabilities and older people an integral part of the planning, design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all spheres of the humanitarian and development response so that they can access services and protection on an equal basis with others. Below are some key approaches that will guide the FPDA's work on mainstreaming disability and ageing in sector working groups in Jordan.

Equality and Non-discrimination

Equality and non-discrimination principles must be applied throughout the response to ensure that women, girls, men and boys with disabilities and older people have equal opportunities to access and benefit from services and protection on an equal basis with others. Partners shall take the appropriate steps to ensure that reasonable accommodation[3] is provided, and that services and programmes do not contribute to creating or reinforcing barriers to persons with disabilities and older people.

Key Actions

- Advocate for equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against persons with disabilities and older people.
- Ensure that programmes and interventions do not constitute or contribute to discrimination against persons with disabilities and older people.
- Ensure that all programmes and services offered by their respective sector are accessible to persons with disabilities and older persons.
- Make sure that reasonable accommodation measures are implemented so persons with disabilities can access services and protection on an equal basis with others.
- Ensure that feedback from persons with disabilities and older people is appropriately incorporated throughout the humanitarian programme cycle.

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[2] According to the 2019 IASC 'Guidelines on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action', mainstreaming is "the process of incorporating the CRPD in protection principles, promoting the safety and dignity of persons with disabilities, and ensuring they have meaningful access to humanitarian support and can participate fully in humanitarian interventions". Notably, "mainstreaming does not focus on what is done, but on how it is done".

[3] According to the 2007 OHCHR 'Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities', "Reasonable accommodation means carrying out, whenever necessary, appropriate modifications and adjustments, which do not impose a disproportionate or undue burden, so that persons with disabilities can enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with others".

- Emphasize the rights of persons with disabilities and older people in all activities conducted by their respective sector.
- Make sure that information and messages prepared by the sector are accessible to persons with disabilities and older people, in multiple and appropriate formats.

Meaningful Participation

The meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and older people is essential to ensure that humanitarian and development services and programmes meet the needs of all refugees. Persons with disabilities and older people know their priorities, needs, and capacities and are better placed to propose solutions to the barriers and challenges they face. In line with the motto of "Nothing About Us Without Us", persons with disabilities and Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) should be at the center of decision-making processes in all decisions that concern them.

Key Actions
- Facilitate the meaningful participation of older people and persons with disabilities and OPDs in decision-making and programming, including the planning, designing, assessment, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of activities.
- Invite older refugees, persons with disabilities and OPDs to sector working groups meetings at least once a year to ensure that members listen to their views, concerns, needs, priorities, capacities and solutions. Ensure that their feedback is incorporated into the respective sector and their recommendations are implemented.
- Emphasize that responses need to be designed in consultation with older persons so that they are inclusive and accessible. Ensure the participation of older people and persons with disabilities of different backgrounds (i.e. gender, range of impairments, socio-economic background, country of origin, race and others).
- Advocate for the inclusion of persons with disabilities and older people in national policies and programmes, including in national social protection systems.

Accessibility and Removal of Barriers

In order to ensure equality, non-discrimination and participation of persons with disabilities in the humanitarian and development settings, it is essential to remove attitudinal, environmental and institutional barriers. Sectors must ensure that a twin-track approach is adopted when planning their responses, that is, designing all responses to be inclusive and accessible to all, while developing targeted actions to address the specific requirements of persons with disabilities. The latter include accessibility and affordability of services, infrastructure, and information and communication, including information and communications technologies and systems, in refugee camps and urban and rural areas. Additionally, the principle of universal design should be applied in developing interventions and responses, to ensure

that "products, environments, programmes, and services be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design"[4].

Key Actions

- Advocate for adding inclusion components in all programming stages, including budgets for reasonable accommodation and accessible services.
- Advocate for the application of the universal design principle in all interventions.
- Conduct inclusion and accessibility audits with the participation of older people, persons with disabilities and OPDs to identify any barriers that are preventing them from accessing services and protection.
- Address barriers that affect participation and access of older refugees and persons with disabilities to services. Identify their preferences regarding the means of service provision.
- Strengthen factors that enable older people and persons with disabilities to participate in decision-making and access services and protection.

Raise Awareness on Disability and Older Age Inclusion

Raising awareness of disability and older age among sectors is essential to foster respect for the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and older people and promote inclusion of the sector response. Combatting stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to disabilities and ageing and promoting awareness on the capacities and contributions of persons with disabilities and older people is necessary to strengthen disability and ageing inclusion.

Key Actions

- Ensure that sector members are sensitive to the importance of including persons with disabilities and older people in the response.
- Ensure that the work of the sector is guided by a rights-based approach and social model of disability.
- Facilitate increased awareness on the rights of older people and persons with disabilities as well as challenges associated with disability and ageing among sector members and response partners through various channels (i.e. meetings, training, etc).

Identification, Data Collection and Monitoring

Collection of qualitative and quantitative data is essential at all stages of the response to identify risks and barriers to inclusion and enable actors to remove them in order to ensure that the response is inclusive. It is also important for humanitarian actors to identify the number of persons with disabilities and older

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[4] As stated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

people in order to ensure their inclusion in interventions and programmes, as well as to measure to which extent the sector is providing assistance and protection to those in need.

Key Actions

- Emphasize that collection of data must be disaggregated by age, sex, and type of disability (physical, sensory, intellectual and mental).
- Advocate for the use of the "Washington Group Questions" in data collection processes (i.e. needs assessments, consultations, school forms, baseline surveys) to help identify persons with disabilities.
- Advocate for the use of RAIS to record disability services in order to facilitate referrals.
- Ask various actors (i.e. civil society, CBOs, religious groups), OPDs, and relevant public bodies for information about persons with disabilities and older people as well as their location.
- Ensure that data sharing agreements are in place to ensure the safety and confidentiality of data.
- Involve persons with disabilities, OPDs, caregivers/support persons and older refugees in data and information collection and analysis.

Reference documents

ADCAP (2018) Humanitarian inclusion standards for older people and people with disabilities. Age and Disability Capacity Programme.

UN (2008) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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UNHCR (2019) UNHCR Policy on Age, Gender and Diversity.

UNHCR (2019) Working with persons with disabilities in forced displacement.

UNHCR (2013) Working with older persons in forced displacement.

UNRWA (2017) Disability inclusion guidelines.