

Ageing and Disability Inclusion Task Team (ADITT)

Terms of Reference

Ageing and disability in Türkiye context:

Türkiye is currently facing a complex humanitarian situation, marked by the recent earthquake that has impacted 9.1 million people. The impact is particularly significant for individuals with disabilities and older persons, who face heightened vulnerabilities due to the complex interplay of displacement, loss of support networks, and reduced access to specialized health services. This challenge is further compounded by the ongoing Syrian crisis, which has led to a substantial influx of refugees. Türkiye hosts 3.7 million Syrians under temporary protection, along with 330,000 individuals holding international protection status and seeking asylum. Within this context, the earthquake is anticipated to exacerbate the number of persons with disabilities, both those with pre-existing conditions and those acquiring disabilities due to the seismic event. The unique needs of older persons and individuals with disabilities have become more pronounced, as they grapple with increased risks associated with displacement, the loss or absence of assistive devices, and heightened exposure to violence and discrimination.

As the most updated research from the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Service, in 2011, the overall ratio of the population with at least one disability was 6.9%. Notably, the highest rate of individuals with disabilities was observed among those aged 55-59, with a rate of 12.1%. Additionally, individuals aged 75 and above had a significant rate of 46.5% with at least one disability. Moreover, when comparing genders, it can be observed that in each age group, females generally have higher rates of individuals with disabilities compared to males. These statistics highlight the varying prevalence of disabilities across different age groups, emphasizing the importance of addressing the needs and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities throughout their lifespan.¹ Since the most recent report prepared by the Government of Türkiye belongs to 2011, it is not clear to demonstrate the current situation regarding people with disabilities, especially after the outbreak of the Syria civil war in 2011 that caused a massive human flow (more than 3.5 million during the last 10-12 years) from the conflict-prone areas to the country.² When it comes to the older population in Türkiye, which was 5,327,736 in 2010, increased by 49% over the past decade, reaching 7,953,555 in 2020. The proportion of the older population in the total population also increased significantly, rising to 9.5% in 2020, a 2.4-fold increase compared to 1935. Population projections indicate that the trend of increasing older population is expected to continue. According to population projections, the population ratio is estimated to be 11% in 2025, 12.9% in 2030, 16.3% in 2040, 22.6% in 2060, and 25.6% in 2080³

Despite the widespread presence and heightened needs of persons with disabilities and older persons in the earthquake-affected areas, available assessments point to existing gaps in achieving an accessible and tailored humanitarian response for these population groups. In February 2023, MIRA KIs highlighted

¹ Ministry of Family and Social Services. (2021). *Engelli ve Yaşlı İstatistik Bülteni*. Retrieved from https://www.aile.gov.tr/media/88684/eyhgm_istatistik_bulteni_temmuz2021.pdf

² Presidency of Migration Management. (2023). *Güncel veriler*. Retrieved from <https://www.goc.gov.tr/guncel-veriler>

³ Turkish Statistics Institute (TUIK). (2022). *İstatistiklerle Yaşlılar*. Retrieved from <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=istatistiklerle-Yasli-lar-2022-49667&dil=1#:~:text=TÜİK%20Kurumsal&text=Yaşlı%20nüfus%20olarak%20kabul%20edilen,9%2C9'a%20yükseldi>

existing gaps in the accessibility of shelter and sanitation facilities as well as a lack of specialized and targeted assistance for persons with disabilities. In 57 out of the 120 assessed districts, KIs reported that no humanitarian aid specifically targeting persons with disabilities was provided in their district⁴.

Key functions of the Ageing and Disability Inclusion Task Team:

Recognizing the exclusion and vulnerabilities that persons with disabilities and older persons experience, the Ageing and Disability Inclusion Task Team will act as a resource to the different coordination mechanisms and stakeholders to better mainstream the inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons throughout the different humanitarian and development programming.

1- Coordination:

- Bring Ageing and Disability inclusion experts together in one forum to exchange knowledge and provide technical support to other stakeholders.
- Coordinate and harmonize Ageing and disability inclusion efforts at both humanitarian and development levels.
- Strengthen communication and networking with local and national representative organizations of persons with disabilities and older people.
- Actively engage Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and older persons in discussions and initiatives led by the Task Team.
- Actively engage and support the community-based organizations, forums, and networks in Türkiye.

2- Advocacy:

- Actively participate in the different coordination meetings with other stakeholders including meeting and coordination with government counterparts.
- Develop key messaging and recommended tools/indicators for other sectors on including age and disability in assessments or monitoring reports.
- Advocate with donors to fund inclusive humanitarian and development programs in Türkiye.
- Advocate for the rights of Persons with Disabilities and older persons, ensuring that their legal rights are protected and upheld.

3- Technical support:

- Provide technical support to other sectors on matters related to ageing and disability inclusion mainstreaming.
- Identify ageing and disability inclusion gaps and priorities in humanitarian and development programs carried out by actors and identify pathways to address them.
- Develop technical materials, guidance notes, and awareness messages tailored to the needs and gaps identified in the different sectors.
- Support efforts to strengthen the capacity of national authorities and civil society organizations.
- Share and circulate relevant training opportunities and tools among stakeholders.
- Develop awareness and training materials tailored to the different needs in the field.
- Develop communication strategies and materials that promote inclusive messaging and ensure that information is accessible to persons with disabilities and older persons.

⁴ OCHA. (2023). *Joint Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Needs Assessment (MIRA) Report*.

4- Assessment, analysis, and information sharing:

- Promote the collection of data related to barriers, needs, and priorities of persons with disabilities and older persons among the different communities.
- Provide technical support to other actors when planning and/or conducting research and assessment.
- Collect, document, and share lessons learned among the Task Team members and the related sectors and working groups.
- Disseminate relevant information and useful resources with the Task Team members and the related working groups.
- Work with the M&E working group and the IM working group to enhance age and disability disaggregated data collection and reporting.
- Ensure that information related to services is accessible and inclusive of all types of disabilities.

Roles and responsibilities:

1- Roles and responsibilities of the Ageing and Disability Inclusion Task Team Co-chairs:

- The Task Team Co-chairs will consist of one representative of a UN agency, one representative of an International NGO, and one representative of a National/Local NGO.
- Ensure regular attendance and representation at the different coordination mechanisms (ABC, 3RP, etc.).
- Take the lead in identifying gaps related to ageing and disability inclusion mainstreaming.
- The Task Team co-chairs should identify key priorities and areas of focus for the Task Team members.
- Develop workplans in line with the priorities at field level.
- Lead the regular meetings with the Task Team members.
- Assign focal points to represent the Task Team at the different working groups and sectors.
- Lead on the engagement of Ageing and Disability specialized organizations.
- The Task Team co-chairs will coordinate and support research and inclusive data collection among members.
- In addition to the regular Task Team meetings, conduct an open quarterly meeting with all interested sectors' members.
- Lead the selection process of the Task Team members.

2- Roles and responsibilities of Age and Disability Task Team members:

- Regularly attend the monthly meetings of the Task Team.
- Upon the request of the Task Team, review technical documents and tools. Additionally, review and share feedback on documents developed by the task team or other relevant actors.
- Participate and represent the Ageing and Disability Inclusion Task Team at other Sectors and Working Groups under the different coordination mechanisms.
- Advocate and sensitize other actors on ageing and disability inclusion mainstreaming.
- Demonstrate an ongoing commitment to inclusion in their organizations.
- Mobilize resources, both financial and non-financial, to support the implementation of age and disability inclusion initiatives whenever it's applicable.

Membership Criteria:

- Independent ageing and disability activists and representatives of local and national organizations of persons with disabilities and older persons.
- Ageing and/or disability advisors and experts of national and international organizations and agencies.
- Ageing and disability inclusion focal points of national and international organizations and agencies.
- Demonstrated disability inclusion related technical expertise and capacity.
- Knowledge of ageing and disability inclusion mainstreaming in humanitarian and development programming.
- Previous experience in ageing and disability inclusion mainstreaming programming.
- Knowledge of the coordination structure in Türkiye.
- Ability to commit to monthly meetings (in person or remote).
- Ability to dedicate committed staff with the necessary capacity. The organization should nominate a focal point and alternate focal point with technical experience for standing participation in the group.
- Ability to dedicate resources and tools to support inclusive interventions.
- Respect for Core Humanitarian & Protection Principles.