



Child Protection Working Group



**PROTECTION OF CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES**



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Protection concerns



- Children with disabilities living in situations of forced displacement are particularly vulnerable to abuses, discrimination, exploitation and violence
- They may have difficulty accessing support and services that could reduce their risk and vulnerability.
- They may be missed in assessments and not consulted in the design of programs or activities. and, therefore, their needs might be given low priority



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Why are they particularly vulnerable?



- Perceived as less able to defend themselves.
- More easily manipulated or less capacity to negotiate power in intimate relationships.
- Perceived as unreliable informants and thus may not be believed when they report violence.
- Reluctant to report abuses for fear of bringing more shame upon an already stigmatized family.
- Inadequate understanding of disability concerns by officials in the legal, social systems.



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What kind of violence/abuses?



- Greater risk of SGBV
- Physical violence – inside and outside family
- Emotional/psychological violence
- Violence at schools (e.g. bullying)
- Neglect - institutionalized, locked inside
- Unequal access to/Denial provision of basic services, medication - water - food - education



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Exploitation



- CWDs might need to pay others, with money or materials, to assist with daily activities and tasks
- CWDs might need to pay others to access humanitarian assistance
- Sexual exploitation and trafficking
- Child labour



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Discrimination



- Exclusion from rights, the right to have a family, to express him/herself etc
- Exclusion from family decision making
- Exclusion from basic services, education, health, humanitarian aid etc
- Exclusion from social life, cultural interaction etc

Consequences of abuse, violence, exploitation and discrimination



- Further social isolation and stigma
- Poor health
- Deprivation of protection and special care
- Illiteracy
- Psychological distress for children and family members
- Depression in children and family members
- Low self esteem and further abuses



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