



Capacity Statement

Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action

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Our aim

We respond, support and advocate to ensure the rights, protection and safety of people with disabilities in situations of risk, including armed conflicts, natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks.

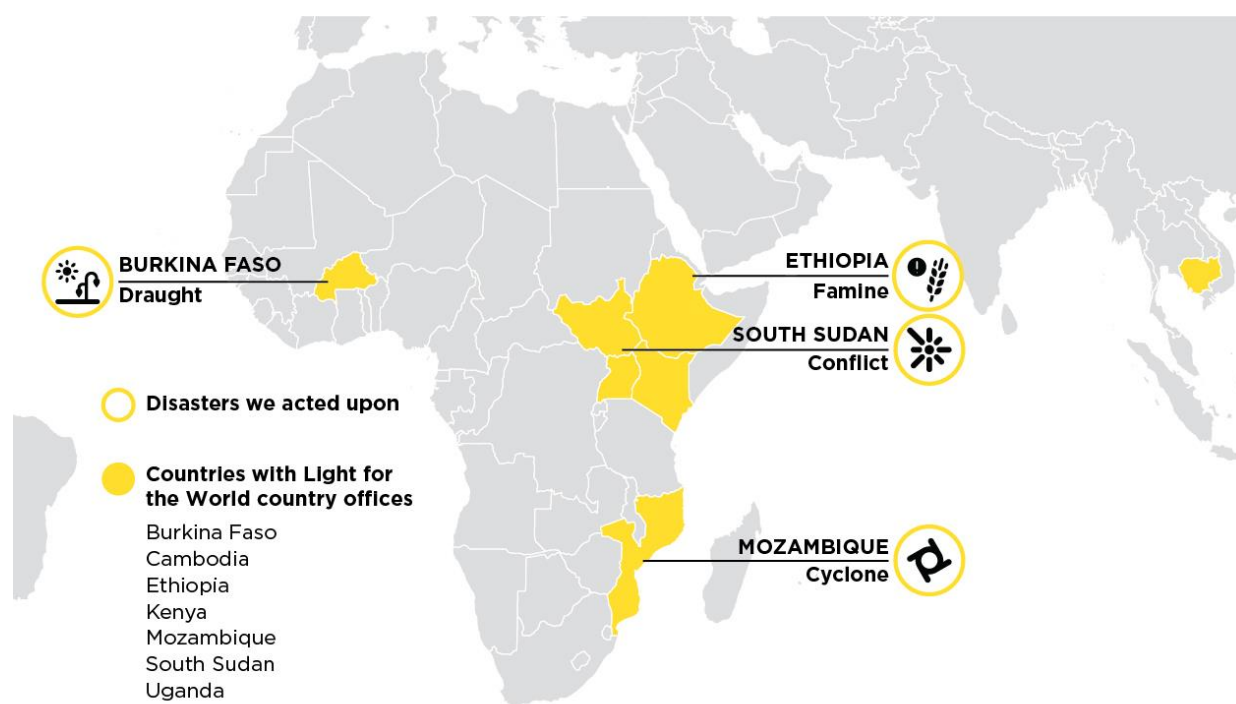
About us

Light for the World is a global disability and development organisation working on inclusive development and humanitarian action in some of the poorest and disaster-prone regions of the world. We aim to create immediate impact and long-lasting change for people with disabilities by meeting their urgent needs while breaking down barriers which unlock their potential. Through our strong ongoing development programmes, we make sure people with disabilities are better prepared to absorb the impact of a potential disaster. We work closely together with local Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs), governments, UN agencies and other development and humanitarian actors. Together, we strengthen systems and services across a wide range of sectors including eye health, rehabilitation,

inclusive education, livelihood opportunities and social protection for people with disabilities. In 2019 alone we supported more than 1.2 million people with disabilities, while also responding to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique and the protracted humanitarian crisis in South Sudan.

Our geographical focus

Light for the World works in 20 countries in Africa, Asia and other parts of the world. We have country teams operating in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Sudan and Uganda. In these countries we engage directly in disaster response implementation through our local partner network. In other regions we seek sustainable partnerships with actors who share our mission of reaching out to the most vulnerable populations in times of emergency.



Our approach to inclusive humanitarian action

Many existing international policy frameworks and conventions on humanitarian action demand the inclusion of people with disabilities. However, the reality on the ground shows that people with disabilities continue to be left behind when emergencies strike. This indicates there is a gap between policy and practice. Light for the World contributes to closing this gap by responding, supporting and advocating for the inclusion of people with disabilities in humanitarian action. We do this by mobilizing our broad network of pre-existing local partnerships and by connecting with mainstream humanitarian actors.

This enables us to act quickly in emergency situations and reach those most in need.



“The ones from the distribution called my name and because I have a hearing impairment, I couldn’t hear it. When I went there to explain that I didn’t hear my name being called, they said that the food already ran out, and we don’t have anything else to give to you.”

Quote from [‘Aid out of Reach’](#). Light for the World raises the voices of people with disabilities in times of emergency

Our experience has taught us that targeted support and mainstreaming must go ‘hand in hand’ to reach people with disabilities in times of emergency. We have embedded this approach in three main areas:

Direct response in emergencies: we provide targeted support to people with disabilities in affected communities of our partner countries, to meet their immediate needs. We ensure equal access to information, essential food and-non-food items, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, and provide psychosocial support where needed. We channel support directly through our local partners.

Technical support to humanitarian actors: we provide technical expertise in making programmes and services of humanitarian actors accessible for and inclusive of people with disabilities. We promote disaggregation of data by disability type, gender and age, and we provide support to make data collection tools disability inclusive. We participate actively in the humanitarian cluster system and provide training through qualified Disability Inclusion Advisors and Facilitators who possess contextual understanding and technical know-how to make inclusion of people with disabilities in humanitarian action a reality.

“Disability inclusion often fails, because we fail to plan for it. Accessibility considerations and appropriate resource allocations should be done starting from the design phase of any programme and continue through its implementation and monitoring.”

Katarina Johansson, UNICEF Representative, at the launch of our joint research report [‘Aid out of Reach’](#)

Advocate for inclusion of people with

disabilities: we advocate for disability inclusive humanitarian action plans of governments and mainstream humanitarian actors. We take an active role in international humanitarian and disability networks (e.g. the International Disability and Development Consortium IDDC) and national cluster structures in affected countries, where we act as a catalyst for change together with our

network of DPOs at global, national and local levels.

Our activities are gender responsive and take account of specific challenges and capacities of women and girls with disabilities in emergency situations. Our work is guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and we align to international humanitarian standards and frameworks.

“We are providing technical support and expertise to our partners on the ground; and supporting larger mainstream organisations to make their support inclusive of people with disabilities!”

Sander Schot, Head of Economic Empowerment and Humanitarian Action, Light for the World

Our services and resources on inclusive humanitarian action

We conduct research and use our learning to develop practical tools, games, videos, guidelines and training to continuously improve our own practice and to technically support others to become more inclusive. These resources also enable us to scale up good practices from local to national levels.

Research

- [Aid out of reach:](#) A review of the access to humanitarian aid for women and men, girls and boys with disabilities affected by Cyclone Idai, Mozambique. Conducted by Light for the World, in partnership with UNICEF (2019).

Tools

- [Disability Inclusion Score Card:](#) A monitoring tool developed specifically for mainstream development organisations but can also be used by humanitarian actors to measure inclusion at an organisational level and determine steps for improvement.
- [Checklists on inclusion:](#) A collection of tools that can be used to check for inclusion of mainstream services and facilities within humanitarian settings. For example, a checklist to assess the access to mainstream services - like WASH facilities, food- and non-food item

distribution, health facilities and shelter - for people with disabilities in IDP camps.

- [Livelihood inspiration cards:](#) A set of 10 cards with examples of enterprises that could be established by youth with disabilities with a small start-up capital. They contain useful information on the activities involved in running such businesses. The cards were produced as a part of the project ‘[Make 12.4% Work](#)’ in Uganda but can be used for all livelihood related resilience programmes.

Games

- [Inclusion Games:](#) A series of games that help organisations to better understand barriers that people with disabilities face in making use of certain services and how to create solutions to overcome those barriers. The games are easily adaptable to different contexts and topics, including humanitarian action.

Videos

- [Myths and truths about COVID-19:](#) A video produced in sign language (with English subtitles) by Light for the World in Uganda to create better understanding about COVID-19.
- [Disability Inclusion Facilitator, Orlando,](#) on the experiences of people with albinism during the COVID-19 crisis

Guidelines

- [*The Resource Book, disability inclusion in humanitarian aid*](#): This book brings together a variety of resources that are relevant for disability inclusion in humanitarian aid. This series includes tailored content for South Sudan, Uganda and Mozambique.
- [*Humanitarian aid, all inclusive*](#): This reader provides practical guidance and examples on how to remove barriers and make humanitarian interventions more inclusive.

Training and coaching

- Light for the World's Disability Inclusion Facilitators provide training and coaching to strengthen the capacity of humanitarian actors to include people with disabilities in their programmes and services. In collaboration with our Disability Inclusion Advisors, a training package is developed for project officers and managers of humanitarian organisations, as well as for donors and policy makers. Training

is face-to-face as well as online. We have trained UN agencies, government departments, the Red Cross and other non-governmental organisations in Uganda, Mozambique and South Sudan. Recently we developed 'Inclusive COVID-19 response' training for mainstream humanitarian actors in Mozambique. We are constantly adding new sessions and modules to our training menu.



"Disability inclusion in humanitarian response is essential to reach the unreachable. Most people with disabilities don't reach safe places or camps due to different barriers. This training will help us to break down barriers and create safe environment for IDPs and refugees."

Mr. Sebit, UNHCR, training participant in South Sudan

Our disability inclusion experts

Disability Inclusion Facilitators

Light for the World builds local capacity for inclusion, by training young people with disabilities to become Disability Inclusion Facilitators (DIFs). DIFs provide practical advice and support on disability inclusion to a range of stakeholders including governments, companies, vocational training centers, DPOs, NGOs, and humanitarian actors. As of June 2020, more than 30 trained and certified DIFs are working with dozens of organisations across Uganda, South Sudan and Mozambique - with more countries to follow soon.



"Empowering humanitarian agencies to be disability inclusive is a dream come true for me. Because I am blind and a professional trainer, it is easier for them to understand the concept of inclusion. Seeing is believing."

Theoliose Abilo, working as DIF in South Sudan

Disabled People Organisations

Light for the World works together with local Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) to develop and implement programmes. DPOs are groups or organisations of people with disabilities. The majority of DPO staff and members are people with disabilities themselves. Based on their lived experience of barriers and mechanisms of exclusion and inclusion, they advocate to mainstream organisations to become more disability inclusive. DPOs play a key role in establishing and driving the work of Disability Working Groups as part of the humanitarian cluster system - closely collaborating with the Protection cluster in particular.

Disability Inclusion Advisors

Light for the World has its own in-house team of Disability Inclusion Advisors based in various countries across Asia and Africa. They train youth with disabilities to become DIFs and provide them with continued coaching and professional development support. Together with the DIFs, they provide high quality advice to mainstream development and humanitarian actors on how to make their programmes and organisations accessible to and inclusive of people with disabilities. In addition, our Advisors are responsible for training and the development of programmes in close collaboration with DPOs. They give technical input to strengthen institutional capacities to mainstream disability into policies and programmes on international, national and local levels.



Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action Experts

The Humanitarian Action Expert Group at Light for the World brings together staff with extensive experience in the humanitarian field. The group includes Country Directors, Programme Coordinators, Project Officers, Research and Documentation Specialist and Disability Inclusion Advisors. Short biographies of these Inclusive Humanitarian Action Experts can be found in the annex.

Our partners, networks and alliances

Light for the World is part of national humanitarian cluster systems, which coordinate emergency response, to provide technical expertise on disability inclusion. We are also involved at global level where we align our messaging with the International Disability Alliance (IDA), with the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) and with the African Disability Forum (ADF). Over the past 30 years, we have built up a network of strong partnerships with the Ministries of Health, Social Affairs and Education, as well as with a wide range of local civil society organisations in our partner countries. The enduring strength of those networks and relationships, built through our ongoing development work, means we can leverage those wide-reaching partnerships for timely and effective humanitarian response in emergencies. It is this pre-existing network of implementing and advocacy partners that enables us to reach people with disabilities in disaster affected communities quickly, and to get them the right support at the time of greatest need.

"I have no doubt that the partnership between Light for the World and UNICEF will continue to be stronger. Partnerships like this, that is based on mutual trust and genuine commitment, has a solid ground for reaching tangible results for children and adults with disabilities."

Edina Kozma, UNICEF Protection Specialist

What is Disability Inclusion in Community Development (DICD)?

Disability Inclusion in Community Development (DICD) is an approach, within general community development, to trigger systemic change and the sustainable realisation of the rights of men and women, girls and boys with disabilities. It means working with communities to become inclusive while also offering targeted support to people with disabilities. For the implementation of our DICD approach our main guiding document is the Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) guidelines that provide a practical strategy to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities in various life domains: from inclusive and accessible health care to inclusive education and economic empowerment, social inclusion and participation. Involvement of DPOs is critical in DICD, to build up a disability movement that can change their own community towards inclusion.



Our programmatic experience

Worldwide

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Light for the World responded rapidly in all partner countries to protect local teams and remain operational. We fostered prevention of infections, prepared people with disabilities to cope with the economic and social impact, treated patients, increased health care capacity and advocated for a disability-inclusive response.

[Read more](#) about our COVID-19 rapid response strategy.

“Our teams are working hard to provide ‘COVID-19 lifelines’ - like food, hospital equipment and economic support - where it’s most needed, with a special focus on people with disabilities.”

Rupert Roniger, CEO, Light for the World



Mozambique

In March 2019, Cyclone Idai and the subsequent floods hit Mozambique. Light for the Word has a longstanding programme in the affected region and partnered with UNICEF to respond rapidly to the disaster. Through our existing Disability Inclusion in Community Development (DICD) programmes and local partners, we were able to swiftly carry out a rapid damage and needs assessment to identify the impact of the disaster on people with disabilities. Together with our partners we provided more than 2,600 households with people with disabilities with essential food and non-food items, indirectly benefiting 13,400 individuals in the affected communities. Another 235 people with disabilities received assistive devices and another 40 people received psychosocial support as part of the humanitarian response programme. Besides targeted support, the team also worked on making disability inclusion an integral part of the general response mechanisms of the government and the aid efforts of humanitarian actors. A key catalyst was the establishment of a Disability Working Group (DWG), as part of the humanitarian cluster system. The DWG led advocacy efforts for disability disaggregated data collection and for the inclusion of people with disabilities in assessment, monitoring and evaluation exercises. In addition, Disability Inclusion Advisors, together with the DIFs, trained and coached staff of 23 mainstream humanitarian organisations in making their interventions accessible for and inclusive of people with disabilities. Their work continues to be monitored by the DIFs.



[Read more about](#) how we get aid to people with disabilities in times of crisis in Mozambique.

[Watch](#) Zicai and his team distributing food and hygiene products to people with disabilities in Mozambique.

“People with disabilities in the Buzi District of Mozambique are in dire need of food. Some are starving. Our colleagues there are now urgently preparing food distribution help to cover the next two months.”

Zicai Zacarias, Country Director, Light for the World Mozambique

South Sudan

Light for the World works in three IDP sites in South Sudan: Mahad, Gumbo and Magaten. Within these sites, our DICD programme ensures access to education, healthcare and rehabilitation services for refugees with disabilities. The programme currently serves over 450 children and over 600 adults with disabilities. Light for the World also initiated and sensitised South Sudan's Disability Working Group, with DPOs firmly in the lead. As a direct result, disability inclusion has become an integral part of the work and approach of the Protection and Education Clusters. In addition, we provide regular training and coaching on inclusive emergency assistance to UN agencies, government departments and other humanitarian organisations in the country. Our Disability Inclusion Advisors and DIFs work closely together with local DPOs to provide this comprehensive support. In 2019 alone, 61 field level staff and 20 management and administrative staff of the South Sudanese government were trained on disability inclusion as well as 79 staff members from UN agencies and mainstream humanitarian actors. Each organisation developed an individual action plan to make its programmes disability inclusive. DIFs monitor and follow-up, to make sure that all plans are well implemented. As a direct result of this training and coaching programme, over 3,500 people with disabilities are directly and indirectly benefiting from emergency support.



DIFs are change makers and service providers and we believe we can create an inclusive environment for all! Because disability mainstreaming is not a request, it's a requirement."

Seme Lado, DIFs leader in Juba, South Sudan

Nepal

In August 2015 a devastating earthquake struck Nepal, leaving whole villages in ruins. Together with the Karuna Foundation Nepal, Light for the World worked in Rasuwa district and Kathmandu on emergency relief and rehabilitation. Together we ensured distribution of essential medication, food and non-food items for 630 families. We supported school enrolment of people with

disabilities, alongside teacher training, adaptations of school buildings and provision of inclusive education materials.

Lebanon

In 2015 Light for the World and Humanity and Inclusion started a psychosocial support project for vulnerable individuals, in particular for people with disabilities and injured / traumatized people - impacted as a result of the conflict in neighbouring Syria. A total of 880 people was screened and 83 individuals benefited from physical and functional rehabilitation services.

Austria

In 2015 Light for the World advocated for inclusive responses to migration by the Austrian government and the Austrian Development Cooperation in countries of origin and countries of transition. We focused on disaggregated data collection, awareness raising on disability rights, accessible service delivery and allocation of funding for refugees with disabilities.

Bosnia-Herzegovina

After severe floods in 2014, Light for the World together with MOZAIK Foundation supported vulnerable communities, with a focus on families of

people with disabilities, with agricultural activities. High quality fruit and vegetable seeds were provided, irrigation systems installed, and soil and fertilizers disseminated. A total of 270 farmer families in ten flood affected municipalities were included.

Burkina Faso

Since 2011, Burkina Faso has been facing droughts and decreases in food production leading to food insecurity and alarming cases of malnutrition. In cooperation with our local partner OCADES, Light for the World ensured access to food for 850 vulnerable households, including 600 children and 780 people with disabilities.



Ethiopia

In early 2011 a famine, caused by a long-lasting drought, hit the horn of Africa. In partnership with Gayo Pastoral Development Initiative (GDPI), Light for the World disseminated in-kind food support to 4,000 people and provided emergency drugs to local health facilities, helping about 15,000 people in need.

Haiti

After the earthquake in 2010, Light for the World facilitated the transition towards sustainable structures for DICD services for the disadvantaged population in two neighbourhoods. Our DICD programme advocated for accessibility of infrastructure and services such as basic health care, education and income generation for 450 people with disabilities.

Pakistan

Floods in July 2010 affected more than 20 million people. Light for the World, in cooperation with CHEF International, provided food support to 1,170 households, shelter items to another 50 households and installed 45 water pumps, among others. During rehabilitation activities, disability friendly spaces were created, and assistive devices were given to people with physical impairments. Mainstream humanitarian actors were sensitised and capacitated to include people with disabilities in their relief efforts.

Uganda

In 2008, Light for the World and the Brian Holden Vision Institute Foundation, jointly implemented the National Intervention on Uncorrected Refractive Errors (NIURE) project, under the auspices of the Ministry of Health. In 2019, NIURE was handed over to the Uganda government as a fully integrated part of the Entebbe General Referral Hospital (EGRH). This very same hospital was in March 2020 selected as “Isolation-Unit” for COVID-19. Light for the World has mobilized funding to support EGRH in Uganda to provide quality health services to prevent and treat COVID-19.



“The activist [DICD worker] were of great help to me; after the cyclone they gave me food and some construction materials like bags of cement and iron sheets. With that I managed to reconstruct my house.”

Quote from a family who received support from Light for the World after Cyclone Idai, Mozambique

Appendix 1. Biographies of our experts

Disability Inclusive Humanitarian Action Experts



Zacharias Zicai - Country Director Mozambique - led Light for the World's emergency outreach following Cyclone Idai in 2019 and during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on ensuring people with disabilities are included in the aid response by humanitarian organizations. Based in Beira, Zicai has 16 years of experience in development work.



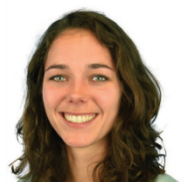
Sophia Mohammed - Country Director South Sudan - specialises in supporting people with disabilities in crisis and conflict situations. Based in Juba, in South Sudan, she has over 28 years of work experience in the field of disability inclusion. She leads our disability inclusion academy in South Sudan and acts as the main trainer and coach for the DIFs. In addition, Sophia coordinates the inclusive humanitarian response training for mainstream humanitarian organisations. She reads braille and is fluent in Ethiopian, South Sudanese and International sign language.



Sander Schot - Head of Humanitarian Action is a humanitarian aid practitioner, manager and facilitator working at the strategic, consulting and operational level. Through 20 years of experience, he is confident with hands-on operational management and leading multicultural and disability inclusive teams. Sander is responsible for strategy development, providing leadership and guidance to our humanitarian action managers, and safeguarding successful and efficient implementation of programmes and initiatives.



Pedro Safrão - Programme Manager & Disability Inclusion Advisor - coordinates the implementation of our humanitarian response programme in Mozambique. With over 12 years of work experience in inclusion, he provides direct support to local partners and provides training and coaching to DIFs as well as to mainstream humanitarian actors. In addition, he is working on the country strategy on DICD with the Government of Mozambique.



Mirian Wester - Research, Documentation and Project Officer - is a humanitarian aid practitioner and researcher experienced in the field of DICD, Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and emergency relief. She conducted research on the [participation of people with disabilities in DRM](#) and the [access to humanitarian aid for people with disabilities](#), developed practical guidelines for country teams working on inclusion in humanitarian context and contributed to COVID-19 emergency response plans.

Disability Inclusion Advisors



David Curtis - Cambodia - is an inclusive development specialist with three decades of programme management experience in development and the humanitarian field. His expertise lies in innovation, capacity building and organisation development, inclusion, training and facilitation, and development of effective development communications using a variety of traditional and modern media. He is the concept originator of the QUEST methodology – a hands-on approach to participatory and inclusive communication for development as well as various guides on disability inclusion.



Murali Padmanabhan - India - is a development professional with 25 years of work experience and exposure in the field of Gender, Children and Disability Inclusion in Community Development (DICD). Blind himself, Murali's focus is on influencing key stakeholders, including government, INGOs, bi-lateral and multilateral agencies about the inclusive development, rights of people with disabilities through advocacy, sensitization and capacity building.



Ambrose Murangira - Uganda - is former Executive Director of Uganda National Association of the Deaf (UNAD) and board member of the National Disabled People's Organisation of Uganda (NUDIPU). As a disability inclusion consultant, he has advised local DPOs and major International NGOs such as Warchild, Plan International and Uganda Red Cross Society. His work with these organisations has centred around disability awareness and disability inclusive programming. His expertise lies in facilitating the process towards becoming disability inclusive organisations through capacity building, mentoring, coaching, conducting research and documentation. Ambrose is deaf and is fluent in [Ugandan and International sign language](#).

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