



HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Capacity Statement

Light for the World
May 2023



Our aim

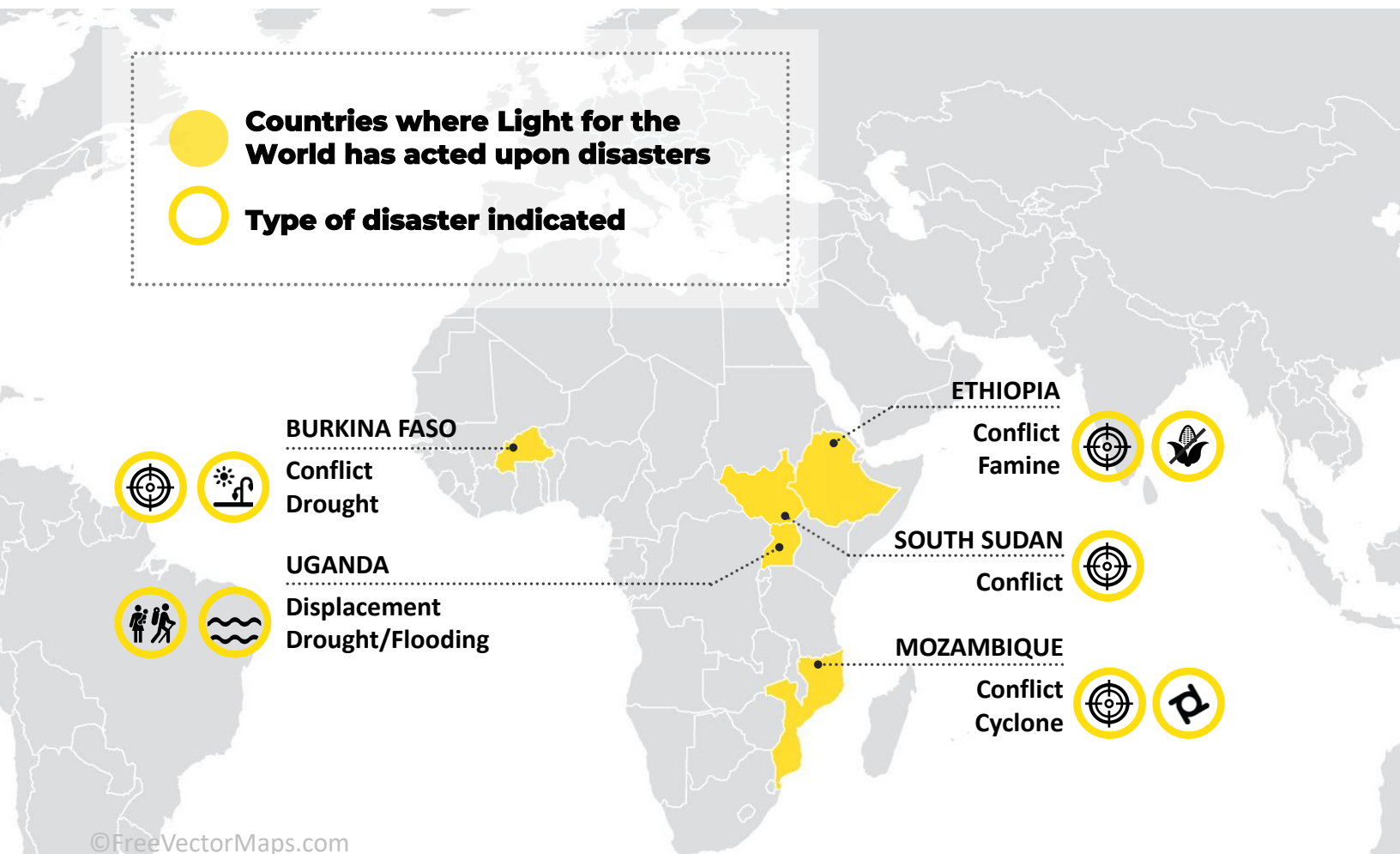
We respond, support and advocate to ensure the rights, protection and safety of people with disabilities in situations of risk, including armed conflicts, natural disasters and infectious disease outbreaks.

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 most 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 at the same time breaking down barriers to achieving their full 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 Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs), governments, UN agencies and other development and humanitarian actors.

Our geographical focus

Light for the World has country teams operating in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, South Sudan and Uganda. In these countries, we engage directly in disaster response implementation through our local partner networks. 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

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. 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:

1

Targeted 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.

2

Technical support to humanitarian actors on inclusion

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.

3

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 OPDs 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.



**Humanitarian
Action**



**Disability
Inclusion**



**Technical
support to
humanitarian
actors**



**Targeted
response in
emergencies**



**Advocate for
inclusion of
people with
disabilities**

Our inclusive humanitarian action services and resources



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).
- ▶ [Disability Inclusive Rapid Gender Analysis](#): An analysis on gender with a focus on girls and women with disabilities in IDP camps in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique (2022).
- ▶ [Learning Series 01: Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action in South Sudan](#)
- ▶ [We are part of the solution](#)

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.

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.
- ▶ [Guide to Disability Inclusive Rapid Gender Analysis](#): This guide supports organisations on their path to a disability inclusive Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA).
- ▶ **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. We are constantly adding new sessions and modules to our training menu.



Our disability inclusion experts

Organisations of Persons with Disabilities

Light for the World works together with local Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) to develop and implement programmes. OPDs are groups or organisations of people with disabilities. The majority of OPD 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. OPDs 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 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 centres, OPDs, NGOs and humanitarian actors. As of June 2020, more than 30 trained and certified DIFs were working with dozens of organisations across Uganda, South Sudan and Mozambique - with more countries to follow soon.

Disability Inclusion Advisors

Light for the World has its own in-house team of Disability Inclusion Advisors based in various countries across 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 OPDs. 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 Specialists and Disability Inclusion Advisors.



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

Our partners, networks and alliances

Light for the World is part of national humanitarian cluster systems 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). We are working with many key partners that are a valuable contribution to our work; e.g., Austrian Development Agency, CARE, Caritas, ELRHA, Red Cross, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, ZOA/Dorcas.

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.



I have no doubt that the partnership between Light for the World and UNICEF will continue to be stronger. A partnership 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

Our disability inclusive humanitarian action experts

SOPHIA MOHAMMED

JACQUELINE BUNGART



LIGHT FOR THE WORLD is an international organisation specialising in inclusive development. Our goal is an inclusive society that is open to all and leaves no one behind. We champion inclusive services in all aspects of life, so that persons with disabilities can participate with equal rights in society.

LIGHT FOR THE WORLD works closely with local partners and Organisations of Persons with Disabilities. This enables us to apply donations in a targeted, sustainable way, to create lasting structures and pave the way to an inclusive society.

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