



Building capacity for disability inclusion gender based violence (GBV) programming in humanitarian settings

Persons with disabilities remain among the most vulnerable and socially excluded groups in any crisis affected community. Women and girls with disabilities are at higher risk of violence than non-disabled peers, due to misconceptions, negative attitudes and social exclusion. Despite GBV response and prevention being integral to humanitarian responses from the earliest phase of any emergency, persons with disabilities do not have the same access as other community members to these services.

Women's Refugee Commission (WRC) and International Rescue Committee (IRC) are currently conducting a two year project to contribute to the evidence base on effective strategies for disability inclusion in GBV prevention and response in humanitarian contexts. The project will:

1. **Identify the gaps and opportunities for disability inclusion** in GBV prevention and response programs through a detailed mapping of IRC Women's Protection and Empowerment programs, review of the GBV Information Management System and group discussions with persons with disabilities in three humanitarian contexts.
2. **Pilot and evaluate actions to promote accessibility and inclusion** for persons with disabilities in GBV programs in three humanitarian contexts – Technical support will be provided to three IRC country programs to design and implement pilot actions for disability inclusion in their GBV programs. These pilot actions will be evaluated after one year of implementation to determine effectiveness and identify both good practices and lessons learned.
3. **Document and share effective strategies for disability inclusion with the wider humanitarian sector** by developing programmatic guidance and technical resources for GBV practitioners; conducting learning forums which bring together GBV practitioners and disability organizations; and advocating to UN agencies, donor and host governments, and international and local NGOs engaged in humanitarian action.

For more information about the project, please contact:

Emma Pearce, Disability Program Officer, WRC
emmap@wrcommission.org

Leora Ward, Technical Advisor, Women's Protection and Empowerment, IRC
Leora.Ward@rescue.org