UN Expert Group Meeting
“Older Persons in Emergency Crisis”

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR AGE AND DISABILITY INCLUSION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Sofía Rivas Rufin | May 2019
PROMOTE A POSITIVE AGEING

CULTURAL CHANGE

MAKE VISIBLE OLDER PERSONS
CHILE IS A COUNTRY THAT CONSTANTLY FACES NATURAL DISASTERS

- Earthquakes
- Tsunamies
- Forest Fires
- Volcanic Eruptions
- Floods
- Droughts
- Etc
2010 EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI

8.8 521 192

Source: Centro Sismológico Nacional, “Fallecidos terremoto y maremoto Chile 2010” - J. Lastra et al.
SUMMER SEASON FOREST FIRES

5,000 fires
50,000 hectares
99.7% caused by human action

Source: Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF)
3.2 MILLIONS
Are aged 60 and older (older persons)

16.9% of the total population

79.86 Life expectancy

Source: Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE), United Nations
POPULATION AGEING PROCESS IS A WORLDWIDE PHENOMENON

FRANCE
- 10% (150 YEARS)
- 20%

CHILE
- 10% (60 YEARS)
- 17%

Source: World Health Organization, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas Chile (INE)
Older persons as a priority + impact of natural disaster

Adopt guidelines that incorporate the needs of older persons and people with disabilities in plans, programs and public policies related to crises, emergencies and humanitarian action.
MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR AGE AND DISABILITY INCLUSION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION
MAIN OBJECTIVE:
• Facilitate the inclusion of older persons and people with disabilities in the programs of all humanitarian organizations, to ensure that both groups receive humanitarian assistance that responds to their gender-specific vulnerabilities, needs and capacities

OTHER OBJECTIVES:
• Inform and guide the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian programs and policies
• Strengthen accountability to older persons and people with disabilities
• Support advocacy, capacity-building and preparedness measures on age and disability across the humanitarian system
RECIPIENTS:

- Humanitarian organizations and state agencies in charge of emergency and crisis response
  - Professionals who make decisions on humanitarian response to crises or emergencies, but with a special focus on municipal civil protection offices
FRAMEWORK:

- 8 Inclusion Standards
- 7 Sector-specific Standards
- Both supported by related actions to meet the standard
- Design to be relevant to all settings:
  - Urban/Rural communities
  - Camp/non-camp settlement
- Cross-cutting themes:
  - Gender-sensitivity
  - Protection
  - Role of carers
STANDARDS BASED ON PRINCIPLES:

- Principled humanitarian action
- Non-discrimination
- Meaningful access
- Respect for the inherent dignity of people with disabilities and older people
- Active and effective participation and equality of opportunities
- Respect for diversity, including equality between women and men of all ages
- Recognition of the essential role of carers
People with disabilities and older persons should be identified to ensure they receive assistance that is appropriate and relevant to their needs.

✓ E.g. action: collect and use reliable data on disability and older age within the affected population.
Both groups should have access to the humanitarian assistance they need

✓ E.g. action: adapt budgets to include costs for accessible services
They should not be negatively affected and be more prepared, resilient and less at-risk as a result of humanitarian action.

E.g. actions: encourage national and local duty bearers to respect the rights, needs and capacities of older persons and people with disabilities.
Know their rights and entitlements, have access to information and participate in decisions that affect them on an equal basis

✓ E.g. action: make staff aware that many people with disabilities and older persons cannot use or access mainstream communication, like text messages
Have access to safe and responsive mechanisms to handle complaints on an equal basis

✓ E.g. action: train staff on how to communicate respectfully with people with disabilities and older persons
6. Receive and participate in coordinated, complementary assistance on an equal basis

✓ E.g. action: create partnerships between mainstream humanitarian actors and age- and disability-specialized organizations and make sure they participate in the humanitarian response
Expect improved assistance and inclusion as organizations learn from experience and reflection

✓ E.g. actions: include both groups in monitoring and evaluation and define and use appropriate age-and disability-indicators in baseline data, monitoring forms and evaluation
Receive the assistance they require from competent and well-managed staff and volunteers who are skilled and equipped to include them in humanitarian responses, and they have equal opportunities for employment and volunteering in humanitarian organizations.

✓ E.g. action: ensure humanitarian staff are aware that both groups are not homogeneous, and that they understand their specific needs, capacities and vulnerabilities
SECTOR-SPECIFIC STANDARDS

1. Protection
2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
3. Food Security and Livelihoods
4. Nutrition
5. Shelter, Settlement and Non-Food Items (NFIs)
6. Health
7. Emergency Education
Each set of sector-specific standards contains:

• Their own standards
• Actions to meet each standard
• One or two case studies
• List of recommended documents for further guidance
1 PROTECTION

- 7 Standards
- Standard example: older persons and people with disabilities living in residential institutions and hospitals are protected
  ✓ E.g. action to meet the standard: Be aware of the high risk of abuse of people in institutions. Liaise with local and national authorities and the institutions concerned, and coordinate among protection actors to ensure that residential institutions are identified and visited regularly
SECTOR-SPECIFIC STANDARDS

2 WATER, SANITATION AND HYGINE (WASH)

- 5 Standards
- Standard example: both groups have full access to emergency toilets that are appropriate for them to use safely and with dignity
  ✓ E.g. action to meet the standard: providing ramps, handrails and guided access and ensuring sufficient space to accommodate wheelchair with the door closed and to enable carers to assist with access or personal care
3 SECTOR-SPECIFIC STANDARDS

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- 4 Standards
- Standard example: both groups are included in food security and livelihoods assessments, and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of food security programs
  ✓ E.g. action to meet the standard: ensuring food or cash/voucher transfer systems are appropriate (location, accessibility and frequency of distribution)
SECTOR-SPECIFIC STANDARDS

4 NUTRITION

- 4 Standards
- Standard example: information relating to food and nutrition services and interventions is fully accessible and available to people with disabilities, older persons and their carers
  ✓ E.g. action to meet the standard: use a range of communication channels and methods to ensure they have access to nutrition education and public information campaigns relating to food and nutrition
SECTOR-SPECIFIC STANDARDS

5

SHELTER, SETTLEMENT AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

• 5 Standards
• Standard example: both groups have safe and equitable access to shelter and settlement facilities that are appropriate, adequate and safe for them to use
  ✓ E.g. action to meet the standard: design and construct new temporary or permanent shelters with mobility to be universally accessible (level and/or ramped access, among others)
SECTOR-SPECIFIC STANDARDS

6 HEALTH

• 9 Standards
• Standard example: older persons and people with disabilities affected by crisis have access to comprehensive health services and health information
  ✓ E.g. action to meet the standard: organizing specific schedules for both groups to access medical or nursing consultations and providing appropriate mobility aids (like wheelchairs) and other assistive devices
SECTOR-SPECIFIC STANDARDS

7 EMERGENCY EDUCATION

- 4 Standards
- Standard example: both groups have full access to vocational training, skills training and adult literacy classes
  ✓ E.g. action to meet the standard: enlist community workers and disabled people and older persons organizations to help identify the skills and training needs of older persons and people with disabilities and encourage these people to participate in vocational and other training opportunities
With the application of the minimum standards we can achieve the humanitarian principle of impartiality and humanitarian quality and accountability.
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