

Checklist for Planning a Disability Inclusive COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response and Recovery

The purpose of this checklist is to ensure a disability inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery, in line with the [Secretary General’s Policy Brief on a Disability Inclusive Response to COVID-19](#). Disability inclusion is essential to supporting Member States in their implementation of the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) and a foundation for recovering better. It is also crucial to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda, including the commitment to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first.¹

How and When should the Checklist be Used?

This checklist sets out the minimum considerations for UNCTs in supporting disability inclusion in the immediate COVID-19 response and recovery, guided by a human rights-based approach. It can be used by UNCTs and partners as a guide during the process of conducting assessments, as well as in design, implementation and monitoring of COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. Further guidance is provided in the (forthcoming) *Checklist for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Socio-Economic Assessments of Country Responses to COVID-19* and “Minimum Requirements” *Checklist for Integrating Gender Equality in the UN Framework for Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19*.

1. Has the current situation of persons with disabilities to inform broader recovery planning been assessed?	
1.1. Has existing information (from international, national, local and UN sources including human rights mechanisms) been identified on the situations of persons with disabilities, and have barriers to inclusion been analyzed to inform response and recovery planning?	
1.2. What are the systems and processes that are already in place to include a disability perspective in development analysis and planning that could be built on?	
1.3. When official data is collected, is it disaggregated by disability (as well as disability type), sex and age, urban vs. rural residence, and other status? ²	
1.4. Have the experiences of persons with disabilities, including during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, been captured, e.g. in surveys or through other means? ³	
2. Are the foundations for an inclusive recovery in place?	
2.1. Has a disability inclusion perspective been applied to the design and implementation of recovery measures?	
2.2. Are there accessibility standards and enforcement mechanisms (including requirements for public procurement) in place ⁴ ? [Pillar 2]	
2.3. How is non-discrimination and the duty to provide reasonable accommodation enforced within public policy (employment packages, reskilling, education)? [Pillar 2/3]	

¹ For a list of **concepts and appropriate terminology** please refer to the [Interagency Standing Committee Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#) (2019) (Key concepts and definitions: pages 8 – 10; Rights-based terminology: page 17). For recent **global data on disability and development** see: UN DESA [Disability and Development Report](#) (2018).

² When collecting information, it is useful to disaggregate data by disability through the use of the short set of [Washington Group questions](#).

³ Refer to the Secretary-General’s [Policy Brief on a Disability Inclusive Response to COVID-19](#) for key areas to consider.

⁴ These are critical to ensure infrastructure programs are contributing to disability inclusion and not creating additional barriers.

2.4. How do central governments promote the accessibility that the private sector should provide to persons with disabilities as users of their services and products?	
2.5. How are the efforts and public policies of central governments articulated with local governments for disability inclusive and participatory responses?	
2.6. Within information and communication services, has accessibility (for audio and visual, including on Radio, TV, Websites, Mobile, Social Media) been considered to enable persons with disabilities to allow universal use of key information and communication services? Are any of these alternative communication solutions available, and if so, for which type of disabilities?	
2.7. Are persons with disabilities able to access accessible, affordable and quality assistive devices, rehabilitation, personal assistance, and other support services? [Pillar 1]	
2.8. Does the social protection system include disability-specific entitlements or mainstream entitlements that target persons with disabilities and have these been used to address the situation of person with disabilities in the current context? ⁵ [Pillar 3]	
2.9. What, if any, are the current measures to promote the employment of persons with disabilities (e.g. quota systems, financial incentives, employment-support hubs, job counselling and coaching)? [Pillar 3]	
3. Are persons with disabilities and their representative organisations involved in the COVID-19 assessments and recovery planning and implementation?	
3.1. Are there mechanisms and processes in place to ensure that persons with diverse disabilities and their representative organisations, including women with disabilities, adequately and meaningfully participate in all stages of response and recovery planning and implementation? How is the participation of persons with deafblindness, intellectual, psychosocial and multiple disabilities guaranteed? What are the support systems for the exercise of the legal capacity, expression of will and opinion of persons with disabilities that request it?	
4. Are persons with disabilities a specific target group within recovery planning, given the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 pandemic and pre-existing barriers and inequality?	
4.1. Is the inclusion of persons with disabilities mainstreamed in the recovery planning outputs, including log-frames for strategies, programmes, advocacy and budgets ⁶ ?	
4.2. Is the inclusion of persons with disabilities reflected in monitoring, evaluation, and accountability processes (including inclusive complaint and feedback mechanisms)?	
4.3. Are necessary funds being earmarked for disability-specific measures and reasonable accommodation of persons with disabilities?	
4.4. Have plans and budgets taken into consideration specific needs of women and girls with disability, based on the analysis undertaken in the assessment phase?	
4.5. Is there a record of court judgments concerning discrimination on the basis of disability during the pandemic?	

This checklist was produced by the Working Group on Disability Inclusive COVID-19 Response and Recovery – Socio-Economic Workstream, comprised of 20 UN entities and led by UNDP and DCO. For further information, contact: charles.chauvel@undp.org or brianna.harrison@un.org

⁵ See: [Disability Inclusive Social Protection Response to COVID-19 Crisis](#) (2019); [Joint Statement: Towards Inclusive Social Protection System Supporting Full and Effective Participation of Persons with Disabilities](#) (2019).

⁶ It is good practice to make disability inclusion a requirement in all COVID-19 actions and systems to allow tracking and accountability, for example through the use of the [OECD DAC disability marker](#).