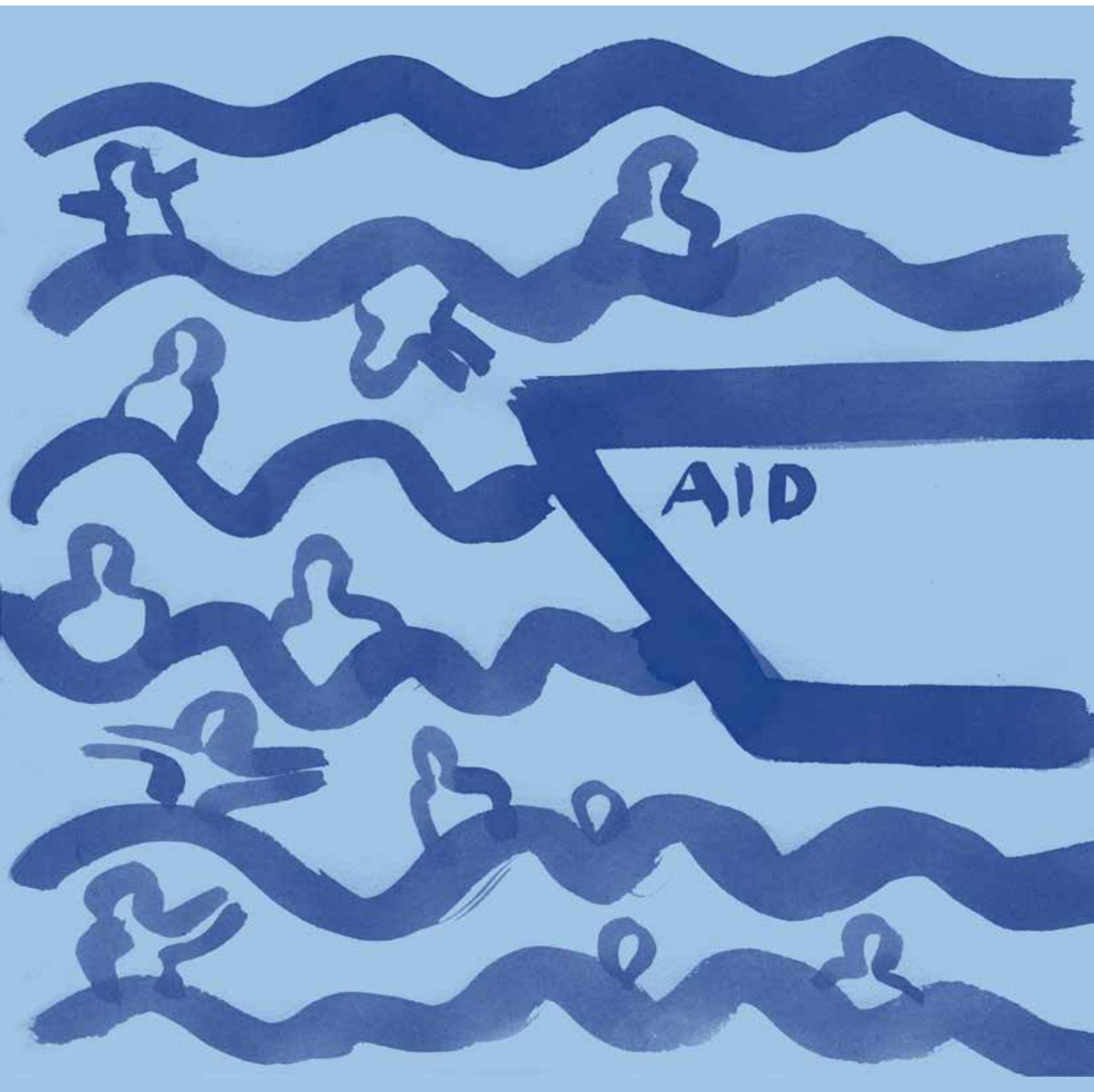


Behinderung und internationale Entwicklung Disability and International Development

Thema: Menschen mit Behinderungen und Klimawandel

Theme: Persons with Disabilities and Climate Change



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Liebe Leser*innen,

der Klimawandel nimmt nachweislich Einfluss auf die Wahrnehmung einer Vielzahl von Menschenrechten. Dabei werden insbesondere die Lebensbedingungen von Menschen beeinträchtigt, die bereits gefährdet sind, in Armut leben und mit Ausgrenzung konfrontiert sind. Menschen mit Behinderungen sind unverhältnismäßig stark einem erhöhten Risiko durch die negativen Auswirkungen des Klimawandels ausgesetzt. Plötzlich auftretende Naturkatastrophen und schleichende Wetterveränderungen können den Zugang von Menschen mit Behinderungen zu Nahrungsmitteln, sauberem Trinkwasser und sanitären Einrichtungen, Gesundheitsdiensten und Arzneimitteln, allgemeiner und beruflicher Bildung, angemessenem Wohnraum und menschenwürdiger Arbeit erheblich beeinträchtigen.

Diese Ausgabe befasst sich mit der Situation von Menschen mit Behinderung im Kontext des Klimawandels. Dabei wird beispielhaft sichtbar, in wie viele verschiedene Lebensbereiche der Klimawandel einwirkt. Antje Tonn und Chandni Ahuja von der Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) beleuchten barrierefreie Verkehrsdienste für Menschen mit Behinderung, ihren Beitrag zu einer nachhaltigen Mobilität und die damit verbundenen positiven Auswirkungen auf die Umwelt. Der Artikel von Francisca Anita Adom-Opare über eine afrikanische Perspektive der Klimagerechtigkeit für Menschen mit Behinderung erinnert uns daran, dass Menschen mit Behinderung bei Auswirkungen des Klimawandels und bei Maßnahmen zur Eindämmung des Klimawandels häufig ignoriert werden. Gleichzeitig versuchen immer mehr afrikanische Länder, mit dieser Tendenz zu brechen und Menschen mit Behinderungen in ihren Klimaschutzmaßnahmen zu bedenken. Davide Ziveri, Mary Keogh und Jennifer Pitter-Lopez aus der Arbeitsgruppe Klimaschutz des *International Disability and Development Consortium* befassen sich darüber hinaus mit der Intersektionalität zwischen Behinderung, Gesundheit und Klimawandel und benennen die Notwendigkeit synergetischer Konzepte und Maßnahmen zwischen behindertengerechten Klimamaßnahmen und Maßnahmen für gesundheitliche Chancengleichheit.

Außerdem macht Emily Niklas von Handicap International in einer Zusammenfassung des Explosivwaffen-Monitors auf die globale Gefährdung der Zivilbevölkerung durch den Einsatz von Explosivwaffen und den Anstieg ziviler Todesopfer aufmerksam.

Wir wünschen Ihnen eine aufschlussreiche Lektüre!

Ihr Redaktionsteam

Dear readers,

Climate change has been shown to affect the enjoyment of a wide range of human rights. In particular, it affects the lives of people who are already vulnerable, living in poverty and facing exclusion. Persons with disabilities are disproportionately exposed to increased risk from the negative impacts of climate change. Sudden natural disasters and gradual weather changes can significantly affect persons with disabilities' access to food, clean drinking water and sanitation, health services and medicines, education and training, adequate housing, and to decent work.

This issue deals with the situation of persons with disabilities in the context of climate change. It shows in an exemplary way how many different areas of life of persons with disabilities are affected by climate change. Antje Tonn and Chandni Ahuja from the *Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* shed light on barrier-free transport services for persons with disabilities, their contribution to sustainable mobility and the positive effects this has on the environment. Francisca Anita Adom-Opare's article on an African perspective on climate justice for persons with disabilities reminds us that persons with disabilities are often ignored in climate change impacts and mitigation actions. At the same time, more and more African countries are trying to break with this tendency and include persons with disabilities in their climate action. Davide Ziveri, Mary Keogh and Jennifer Pitter-Lopez from the International Disability and Development Consortium's Climate Change Working Group also look at the intersection of disability, health, and climate change, and identify the need for synergistic approaches and actions between disability-inclusive climate action and health equity measures.

Finally, Emily Niklas of Handicap International draws attention to the global threat posed to civilians by the use of explosive weapons and the rise in civilian deaths in a summary of the Explosive Weapons Monitor.

We wish you an informative read!
Your editorial team

Inclusive Mobility and Innovation for Climate Action

Antje Tonn/Chandni Ahuja

Persons with disabilities face disproportionately high threats from climate change and are frequently left out of climate action efforts due to inaccessibility. However, when given access to sustainable mobility options, they can become catalysts for change. By prioritizing accessible transport services, persons with disabilities can actively participate in sustainable mobility, leading to a reduction in CO2 emissions and contributing to climate change mitigation. Breaking down barriers and including persons with disabilities in climate action not only promotes social justice but also harnesses potential for creating positive environmental impact and innovative solutions.

Introduction

Amidst the growing challenges posed by climate change, one often overlooked group bears the main consequences, despite having an immense potential to drive transformative solutions – persons with disabilities. This is because the rights and lives of persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected by climate change: during extreme weather events, they face higher rates of mortality and morbidity, and are often unable to evacuate and reach safety. In addition, extreme weather events can lead to the loss or destruction of assistive devices and medicines, which are rarely provided as part of emergency response. Furthermore, barriers that already existed before the disaster, such as an inaccessible environment, are usually exacerbated by natural disasters (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2018).

Climate change affects human health mainly by aggravating pre-existing health conditions (Gaskin et al. 2017). It is therefore to be expected that persons with disabilities will feel the negative effects of climate change on their health more strongly. Furthermore, climate change puts additional strain on health systems by increasing disasters

and general health problems. Emergencies lead to disruptions and breakdowns in health services, treatments and social support networks that are particularly important for persons with disabilities (WHO 2017).

The Need for Inclusive Climate Action

Yet, persons with disabilities are not adequately included in the discourse on climate change, despite Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which obliges the protection of persons with disabilities in all risk situations and humanitarian emergencies. Persons with disabilities in general, but especially women and children with disabilities, are neglected in climate policies and actions. Thus, despite the disproportionate impact of climate change on persons with disabilities, their inclusion in decision-making processes on climate change is still limited. Since persons with disabilities constitute a significant and growing part of the global population (WHO 2011), relying on inaccessible climate solutions that cannot be realized by many persons with disabilities can impede the achievement of sustainable development.

Well-designed, inclusive climate actions reduce the risks of climate change for the most vulnerable, while ensuring that the benefits and burdens of climate action are shared equitably. An inclusive environment also benefits other populations such as elderly people, children, pregnant women, people with temporary injuries, helping to ensure that no one is left behind in mitigating and adapting to climate change. Disability-inclusive approaches to tackling climate change make climate solutions safer, flexible, and accessible for all.

Inclusive climate action can address climate change and socioeconomic inequalities while improving economic opportunities, natural resource management, health, and well-being (USAID 2019). Since persons with disabilities are experts on their own lives and thus best equipped to advise on inclusive resilience building, their meaningful participation and leadership in climate change risk management and decision-making effectively reduces their risks. Inclusion of persons with disabilities enables better prevention and emergency preparedness, promotes information exchange, and facilitates motivation for action against climate change (Jodoin et al. 2020).

Furthermore, solutions to climate change must address the root causes of social injustice, discrimination and inequality that affect persons with disabilities. By recognizing persons with disabilities as subjects of rights, the CRPD celebrates human diversity and provides guidance for formulating disability-inclusive climate policies and empowering persons with disabilities as agents of change. Thanks to Article 32 on international cooperation, the CRPD also has the necessary human rights-based and human-centered approach to make climate action effective by addressing the root causes of marginalisation and exclusion, promoting social justice and meaningful participation and consultation, and combating discrimination. In addition to the CRPD, the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focus on the concept of Leaving No One Behind and commit to human rights for persons with disabilities. Disability is acknowledged as a cross-cutting issue that spans across all SDGs.

Persons with Disabilities as Agents of Change

The International Disability Alliance (IDA) has been advocating for states to adopt and implement disability-inclusive climate change mitigation policies that enable persons with disabilities to contribute to and benefit from efforts to decarbonize societies (Jodoin et al. 2022). Moreover, persons with disabilities should be included in climate action efforts, as the challenges

posed by accessibility often spur innovation and the development of new technologies and services. Addressing the specific needs of persons with disabilities in climate friendly mobility helps to unlock opportunities to foster the creation of inclusive and sustainable solutions.

A project in India – Sustainable Urban Mobility – Air Quality, Climate Action and Accessibility (SUM-ACA) – is working on making urban transportation accessible for persons with disabilities. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), the Government of India and the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH* and commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Under the aegis of the Green Urban Mobility Partnership between Germany and India, SUM-ACA aims to enable national, state, and municipal institutions to promote climate and environmentally friendly, low emission and socially balanced urban mobility systems.

India's 2011 census put the number of persons with disabilities at 25 million, or 2.21% of the total population. Other sources give higher estimates. A 2009 World Bank report estimated the percentage of persons with disabilities at 5-8%, or 55 to 90 million people (The World Bank 2009). Even though a landmark legislation passed by the Indian parliament in 2016¹ guarantees the right to accessible transport for persons with disabilities, the majority of India's population with disabilities is facing barriers to their mobility and inclusion in society. Lack of accessible transportation not only limits their mobility, but also access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities – which further inhibits their meaningful participation and integration in the mainstream.

Inclusive Green Urban Mobility for Climate Change Mitigation

The link between the promotion of public transport and climate change mitigation has been well documented (Kwan et al. 2016) and making public transport accessible will lead to several co-benefits, from unlocking socio-economic opportunities for persons with disabilities, to reduced carbon footprint of cities by decreasing the dependency on private vehicles. Persons with disabilities may also face unique challenges in adopting environmentally friendly practices and technologies due to physical barriers and limitations. Accessible transport services can help address this disparity by ensuring equal access to green solutions, such as public transportation systems, electric

“Addressing the specific needs of persons with disabilities in climate friendly mobility helps to unlock opportunities to foster the creation of inclusive and sustainable solutions.”

vehicles, or shared mobility options that promote sustainability.

However, delivering universally accessible transport is not an easy task. Persons with disabilities are not a homogenous group, and each impairment has its own set of requirements, which need to be considered while planning for inclusive infrastructure. The SUM-ACA project acknowledges that the planning and discourse around accessible public transport systems needs to include the voices that matter the most – the end users. With this underlying approach to enhance the representation of the disability community, the SUM-ACA project organized a series of online and offline consultations with persons with disabilities, disability rights activists, non-governmental organizations, government stakeholders and sector experts. The consultations aimed at understanding the everyday mobility challenges faced by persons with disabilities as well as the barriers that they encounter while accessing road infrastructure and transport systems in India. The sessions focused on the lived experience of persons with disabilities, understanding the key components of a disability inclusive public transport system, and the need to look at it from a holistic perspective involving multiple stakeholders.

Going forward, the project plans to sensitize policymakers and other relevant stakeholders by not only disseminating the findings of these consultations, but also through capacity development. The SUM-ACA project is working on capacity building and sensitization modules for transport and urban design planners at the national, state and city level to help them understand the needs of persons with disabilities and design universally accessible transport networks. The modules will be aimed at different hierarchies of transport agencies, including top level decision makers, middle

management officials, and on-ground crew like drivers, conductors, and assistance staff. The integration of simulation trainings and on-ground accessibility audits will give transport and city planners a first-hand glimpse into the challenges and mobility barriers faced by persons with disabilities.

The SUM-ACA project, along with other projects in GIZ India’s transport portfolio, is also planning to pilot technological solutions to enhance transport accessibility. One of the pipeline interventions planned with the Green Urban Mobility Innovation Living Lab (GUMILL) project is an Onboard device that will be installed inside public buses, to help the bus crew know if a visually impaired passenger will be boarding the bus. This gives them ample time to wait at the bus stop and provide assistance if needed. The announcement system will be connected to a handheld user module operated by visually impaired users who can use it to raise a query and find the correct bus to board at the bus stop. With these interventions, the projects hope to enhance the accessibility of public transport in partner cities, so that persons with disabilities also get the opportunity to switch to sustainable transit modes.

Barriers Triggering Innovation

As accessibility challenges often inspire innovation and the development of new technologies and services, the BMZ-funded GIZ Global Project Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, together with Atos have launched the ICT 4 Inclusion Challenge – India Edition (ICT4IC) in June 2022. This Innovation Challenge sought to find innovative digital solutions at the intersection between climate change and digitalization in India. The winners of the challenge handed in inspiring and innovative solutions. One solution at the intersection of climate change and disaster risk reduction was Shelter, which is an interactive AI enabled social networking platform for inclusive risk information and early warnings for persons with disabilities. The innovation Swiftchat was also a winner of the ICT 4 Inclusion Challenge - it is a multilingual AI chatbot for climate change learning and awareness raising and designed to be used for persons with disabilities. The third prize of the challenge went to a solution called Disability Rescue Management System (DRMS), which provides an ICT-based system to support persons with disabilities in disasters that can be caused by climate change.

During the implementation of the challenge, it became clear that climate change is a pressing issue in India and that India’s citizens with disabilities have so far been excluded from the development of climate

change policies and programmes. As the innovative solutions that emerged from the ICT 4 Inclusion Challenge show, innovation can be a game changer for inclusive climate action.

Conclusion

Embracing accessibility, information sharing, and collaboration empower diverse stakeholders to actively participate in climate action. Therefore, inclusive approaches that prioritize the needs and voices of marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, should be fostered in order to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change and ensure that no one is left behind. Echoing this argument, the UN Resolution on Human Rights and Climate Change adopted in July 2019 urges governments to ensure human rights in all climate change related actions and encourages States to ensure participation of those who are most affected by environmental changes, by adopting “a comprehensive, integrated, gender-responsive and disability-inclusive approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation policies, (...) particularly to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of persons with disabilities both in rural and urban areas to respond to the adverse impacts of climate change” (United Nations Human Rights Council 2019).

Persons with disabilities can be a driver for change and inspire new innovative ideas with regards to climate action. Specifically for urban areas, Inclusive Green Mobility can mitigate the impact of climate change. For the development of such approaches, persons with disabilities should be actively consulted and included in adaptation, mitigation, and climate action.

In conclusion, innovative solutions are needed to make climate action more inclusive and not leave behind persons with disabilities in climate mitigation practices – not only in India, but everywhere.

NOTES

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Menschen mit Behinderungen sind unverhältnismäßig stark vom Klimawandel bedroht und werden häufig von den Klimaschutzmaßnahmen ausgeschlossen, weil sie nicht zugänglich sind. Wenn sie jedoch Zugang zu nachhaltigen Mobilitätsoptionen erhalten, können sie zu Katalysatoren für den Wandel werden. Indem man barrierefreien Verkehrsdiensten Vorrang einräumt, können Menschen mit Behinderungen aktiv an nachhaltiger Mobilität teilnehmen, was zu einer Verringerung der CO₂-Emissionen führt und zur Eindämmung des Klimawandels beiträgt. Der Abbau von Barrieren und die Einbeziehung von Menschen mit Behinderungen in Klimaschutzmaßnahmen fördert nicht nur die soziale Gerechtigkeit, sondern erschließt auch das Potenzial für positive Umweltauswirkungen und innovative Lösungen.

RÉSUMÉ

Les personnes handicapées sont confrontées à des menaces disproportionnées liées au changement climatique et sont souvent laissées à l'écart des efforts d'action climatique en raison de leur inaccessibilité. Cependant, lorsqu'elles ont accès à des options de mobilité durables, elles peuvent devenir des catalyseurs du changement. En donnant la priorité aux services de transport accessibles, les personnes handicapées peuvent participer activement à la mobilité durable, ce qui entraîne une réduction des émissions de CO₂ et contribue à l'atténuation du changement climatique. Faire tomber les barrières et inclure les personnes handicapées dans l'action climatique permet non seulement de promouvoir la justice

sociale, mais aussi d'exploiter le potentiel de création d'un impact positif sur l'environnement et de solutions innovantes.

RESUMEN

Las personas con discapacidad se enfrentan a amenazas desproporcionadamente elevadas derivadas del cambio climático y con frecuencia quedan al margen de los esfuerzos de acción por el clima debido a su inaccesibilidad. Sin embargo, cuando se les da acceso a opciones de movilidad sostenible, pueden convertirse en catalizadores del cambio. Al dar prioridad a los servicios de transporte accesibles, las personas con discapacidad pueden participar activamente en la movilidad sostenible, lo que se traduce en una reducción de las emisiones de CO2 y contribuye a mitigar el cambio climático. Derribar barreras e incluir a las personas con discapacidad en la acción por el clima no sólo promueve la justicia social, sino que también aprovecha el potencial para crear un impacto medioambiental positivo y soluciones innovadoras.

Authors: Antje Tonn has studied cultural anthropology and human geography. She has been working for GIZ since 2021 and has joined the GIZ Global Project on Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities in 2022 as a junior advisor. In her work, she mainly focuses on the intersection between disability inclusion in crisis situations, climate change and good governance.

Chandni Ahuja has studied journalism and political communication. She has a background in development communications and started working as a communications specialist with GIZ India's transport portfolio since 2021. She is passionate about using communications as a tool for development, promoting the themes of inclusion, advocacy and social justice.

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Climate Justice: An African Disability Perspective

Francisca Anita Adom-Opare

Africa's vulnerability to climate change adversely affects disadvantaged groups such as persons with disabilities, women, and children. An overlooked disadvantaged group is persons with disabilities, primarily because of the focus on abled-body frameworks and the synonymy of inclusion to gender, more precisely, women with specific identities in race, income, and geography, and a limited understanding and importance of disability – anchoring the authors ongoing research on *what is disability – the sense-making of disability in Ghana*. This paper presents a model of climate justice through a situational analysis of Africa's climate economy, the gendered and disability perspective of climate change and analytics of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) from a disability lens. The analysed paper emphasizes the thinness of disability inclusion in climate change and mitigation actions, as disability demography is often overlooked and shrouded. Moreover, it unearths how disability issues are systematically ignored through limited reference to disability, which is required to provide actionable language and a targeted approach to disability inclusion. This paper concurs that more African countries than the rest of the world have set the precedence of facilitating disability-inclusive climate action. However, a lot still needs to be done. This paper concludes that to reverse the years of climate change damage and ensure disability-inclusive action, disability issues must be a lingering thread within responses to the climate crisis and education—an initial step taken by African countries.

Climate Change in Africa

Africa is warming faster than the rest of the world – approximately +0.3 °C/decade between 1991 and 2021. This is quicker than the warming from 1961 to 1990, at +0.2°C/decade – yet accounts for 2 % to 3 % of global greenhouse gas emissions (WMO 2022). The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) forecasts and reports the adverse effects of climate change in Africa. According to WMO, in 2021, 14.1 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were displaced due to climate crisis, including 11.5 million due to related conflict and violence (ibid). Evidence suggests the link between conflicts/violence and climate change due to growing competition for depleting resources in Africa (Osano 2022; Tarif 2022). Apart from

these immediate past adverse effects of climate change, the future remains gloomy as WMO forecasts show that by 2030, between 108 and 116 million Africans are expected to be exposed to sea level rise risk, a decline of 9 % of the maize yield in West Africa and 20 % to 60 % of the wheat yield in Southern and Northern Africa, and increased droughts and disappearing glaciers in equatorial East Africa. Africa's mitigation is yet to catch up as only 4 out of 10 people are covered by a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System¹ (WMO 2022).

There is, therefore, an opposing dualism of low emitters of greenhouse gas and high earners of the adverse effects of climate change disproportionately affecting Africans. The duality is exacerbated

within the population fabrics of persons with disabilities who face two to four times higher mortality rates during climate crisis (Stein et al. 2023). To offset this opposing dualism, almost all African (96 %) countries have active national climate plans (i.e., the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs))² to compel commitments to climate adaptation and mitigation. Implementing the NDCs is necessary because delayed mitigation actions are and will continue to worsen global warming. The NDCs showcase the steps of each country to reduce emissions and mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. The NDCs are central to the Paris Agreement, which aims to halt “the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (UN 2016).”

The inclusion of disability within the NDCs shows the national commitment towards disability inclusion (IDA 2023), specifically within climate change action and overall development as proposed by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which has a principle of data disaggregation by disability (UN 2020a).

This paper addresses one fundamental question to explore climate justice from an African disability perspective: Are disability issues considered in national climate plans? The paper examines three interdependent sets of concerns – disability, gender, and disability-inclusive climate action – in answering this question and forming the structure:

1. disability, a snippet of global and African disability statistics is presented to provide context and links between disability and climate change.
2. gender and disability gendered, highlights the importance of gender in disability inclusion and how the absence of disability within gender mainstreaming reinforces climate injustice and provides a recipe to undo the politicization of disability.
3. disability-inclusive climate change, showcases the analyses of national climate plans from a disability perspective.

Disability within Climate Change

Disability means differently to people and institutions. For international organisations such as the United Nations (UN), disability functions from the interaction of people’s health conditions, environmental factors, and personal factors, including negative attitudes, inaccessibility structures and limited support (WHO 2001). On the other hand, disabled authors and activists such as Vic Finkelstein (1980) and Michael Oliver (1983) argue that disability is a social issue in that

society disables people with health conditions. This paper does not delve into the ongoing debates and tensions on the politics of disability conceptualization but takes reconnaissance of these dominant two (2) and other disability conceptualizations contextualized within, for example, religion and culture (Nyangweso 2018; Adom-Opare 2022) to mean disability – a diversity of definitions. Disability is an essential issue because it is part of our human existence. Nearly everyone will temporarily or permanently experience disability with time (Brown/Leigh 2020).

Statistically, one in six of the world’s population lives with some form of disability, with approximately eight out of ten persons with disabilities living in developing countries such as on the African continent (WHO 2023). The disabled population will continue to grow (UN 2020b) due to improved technology for identifying impairments and understanding disability, ageing, disasters, conflicts³, violence, and climate change effects. If we view disability as a group that anyone can join at any time, it means issues around disability should be majorized rather than minoritized.

Climate change contributes to growing health issues and, subsequently, disability. Generally, disability disaggregated data is usually limited and rarely available on climate-induced disasters and violence statistics. However, inferences can be drawn that the effects of climate change, such as environment-induced headaches, respiratory and heart diseases, and injuries, may lead to long-term illness, chronic pain, physical loss of body parts and poor mental health. These climate-induced impairments contribute to the disabled population. Insidiously, extreme weather conditions, such as floods, exacerbate the exclusion and marginalization of persons with disabilities during climate crises. As indicated earlier, Africa is yet to have the requisite tools to address climate change, particularly in favour of persons with disabilities.

Moreover, understanding disability is plagued with spiritual beliefs and stigma compounds disability-inclusive policy. Besides, during policy formulation and implementation, disability issues are addressed ad hoc. The problem of exclusion from policy and development agenda then falls on persons with disabilities themselves, and organizations focused on disability to advocate for disability inclusion within climate action. These advocacies lie amidst discriminatory and exclusionary social and institutional environments such as inaccessible infrastructure, e.g., warning signs and evacuation processes, which continue to view persons with disabilities as less human and hence not a priority within climate change adaptation and mitigation

„African countries have laid the path to surmount disability issues in climate action as persons with disabilities are recognized as part of the decision-making process and marginalized by the effects of climate change.”

(Jodoin/Lofts/Bowie-Edwards 2022; Stein et al.). The Census Bureau in a Household Pulse Survey provides evidence of the isolation and exclusion of disability within climate action; 59 % of hard of hearing and Deaf evacuees face unnecessary institutionalization rather than return home (Harvard University Center for the Environment 2023). National climate policies, therefore, need to take reconnaissance of disability issues to ensure that those who face multiple discrimination and marginalization are called out in actionable language, activity implementation and overall activity goals and objectives within climate adaptation and mitigation.

Gender and Disability Needs to Meet

Gender is arguably a broader umbrella of identity which encompasses all identities – as it is socially instituted and maintained norms of intelligibility (Butler 2006) – and must, therefore, include and centre issues of disability (Garland-Thomson 2002). However, the current positioning of gender is often devoid of disability, as if women or men with disabilities are not women or men (Garland-Thomson 2016). Gender is repeatedly skewed towards women only, race, geography, religion, and social status such as income (Crenshaw 1981; Purdie-Vaughns/Eibach 2008). Rarely is disability afforded a place within the discussion of gender when it should have been the platform from which disability issues are heightened. Mimicking the current trajectory of gender, disability addresses limited gender issues, as if women and men with disabilities

uniformly experience the effects of climate change (Gomes et al. 2019; Adom-Opare 2022). Gender has gained enormous momentum; unfortunately, that momentum has not spurred on disability (Morris 1993). Gender, disability, and other intersecting identities provide a comprehensive and practical framework to action climate change – practically, we do not live within a mono-identity.

A cursory desk study on gender and climate change reveals the growing body of works on how to incorporate gender dimensions into climate change mitigation and adaptation, how gender issues have been strengthened and how the adverse effects of climate change affect gender. For instance, the 2022 NDC synthesis report indicated that references to gender had deepened and increased. The report mentions that 60 % of parties referenced gender in their national climate policies (United Nations 2022). Six per cent more of the Parties have referenced gender in their NDCs, 20 % elaborated more on gender and another 38 % on gender mainstreaming in climate change with no direct mention of disability (ibid). Nonetheless, 93 % of parties indicated inclusive and participatory planning and means of implementation, laudable steps within climate change discourses (ibid). Yet, within this inclusive and participatory approach, gender was the only thematic issue called out. Inclusion and participation are globally accepted as good tenets of any development agenda and are highly political and subjective. With differing political agendas, commitments and expertise, actions often focus on particular thematic inclusion and participation, such as gender.

The importance of gender integration cannot be overemphasized, as 75 % provided information related to gender in the NDCs, while more than half (i.e., 39%) indicated gender-responsive implementation (United Nations 2022). Though including intersecting identities, such as disability, strengthens gender. And often, these intersecting identities are treated as issues of inclusion and participation. Yet the inclusion and participation clauses are blurred because they are not called out. Specifying inclusivity and participation ensures efforts are channelled to thematic achievement and accountability is also reached. Vaguely indicating inclusion or participation does not depict what inclusion or participation category is of interest, which relegates other themes to the peripheries and is further worsened by intersecting invisibilities (Purdie-Vaughns/Eibach 2008). What or who is included or participating? How does the performativity of inclusion and participation translate if

there is no definition? Calling out inclusion and participation through description is vital because inclusion and participation mean different things to people. For example, what type of inclusion is of focus: disability inclusion, women's inclusion, children's inclusion, etc. If the demography of inclusion is not detailed, how can inclusion be monitored or assessed within the multiplicity of meanings aligned with inclusion? This is not to say that siloed inclusion should be the approach; far from that, disability does not live in a vacuum – it embodies people with and without disabilities, genders, geographies, etc. If there is no definition of the typology of inclusion, it becomes difficult to track progress and blankets other forms of demography and inclusion identities under the illusion of inclusion. Therefore, it is misleading to wholly indicate inclusivity or participation; who/what is being included and who is participating provide references which facilitate meaningful inclusion and participation because actionable languages are present for implementation and monitoring.

Several gendered perspectives on climate change do not consider disabilities or the heterogeneity of women's lives and heterogeneity within women with disabilities. For example, although there are shared commonalities of exclusion faced by women, particularly women with disabilities, there are glaring differences. Women with albinism and physical impairments have different inclusionary needs, and mechanisms may not necessarily be the same. A woman with albinism may require increased Sun Protection Factor (SPF) sunscreen lotion and large print to access information during climate crises such as increased temperature; women with physical impairments may require accessible physical infrastructure such as accessible transportation and shelter. A gendered perspective of climate change should take reconnaissance of intersecting invisible identities, such as disability, often relegated to the peripherals. Similarly, a disability perspective of climate change should consider gender.

Disability in National Climate Policies in Africa

Gradually, disability is gaining momentum, as demonstrated by the 2023 synthesis report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which made three (3) references to disability as people at risk/vulnerable to climate change (IPCC 2023). Although this was an instrumental recognition, the report was silent on the knowledge and expertise that persons with disabilities and their organizations bring to bear in climate action. This momentum is inconsistent with its acceleration of exclusion dynamics.

The systematic analysis of disability in the NDCs draws from the 2022 Disability Rights in National Climate Policies Status Report (Jodoin/Lofts/Bowie-Edwards 2022). From this report, 35 State Parties to the Paris Agreement climate change policies referenced persons with disabilities as of June 2022 – representing 18 %⁴. Data on disability statistics is lacking (Abualghaib et al. 2019), with different measurements used (WG 2020), making cross-comparisons sometimes tricky; however, available country-specific data⁵ on these 35 countries (shown in Table 1) indicate non-uniform prevalence rates. With as low as 1.36 % in Togo (Portail de données du Togo 2023) and a high of 22 % in Canada (Employment and Social Development Canada 2022), with a common range between 3 % and 13 %, below the global rate of 16%. Similarly, in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), these countries with disability-responsive climate action plans have dissimilar economies cutting across low-, middle- to high-income economies, with Kiribati having the lowest GDP as of 2022 of US\$223.35 million compared to the highest, Canada of US\$ 2,139,840 .02 million (World Bank 2023).

From Table 1, eleven (11) out of the 35 national climate policies that referenced persons with disabilities emanate from Africa⁶.

Table 1: Countries per Continents with Disability References in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Source: Readapted from Jodoin, Lofts and Bowie-Edwards (2022)

s/n	North America	South America	Africa	Asia	Australia (Oceania)	Europe
1	Antigua and Barbuda	Argentina	Cabo Verde	Cambodia	Fiji	Georgia
2	Barbados		Chad	Jordan	Kiribati	Moldova
3	Belize		Republic of Congo	Maldives	Marshall Islands	
4	Canada		Eswatini	Myanmar	Papua New Guinea	
5	Costa Rica		Mauritius	Sri Lanka		
6	Dominican Republic		Seychelles	State of Palestine		
7	Mexico		Sierra Leone	Uzbekistan		
8	Panama		Tanzania	Vietnam		
9	St. Lucia		Togo			
10			Tunisia			
11			Zimbabwe			

The African continent is showing the way, with a third (31 %) of national climate policies referencing disability, as shown in Figure 1, with details of the countries' names in Table 1. It indicates the level of awareness and, to some degree, commitment towards the issues of disability. The references provide actionable language, without which conscious efforts to integrate disability in implementation and monitoring will not materialize. Yet, more needs to be done with just references. After Africa, the next continent with disability-referenced NDCs are North America (26 %), Asia (23 %), Oceania and Australia (11 %), Europe 6 % and South America (3 %).

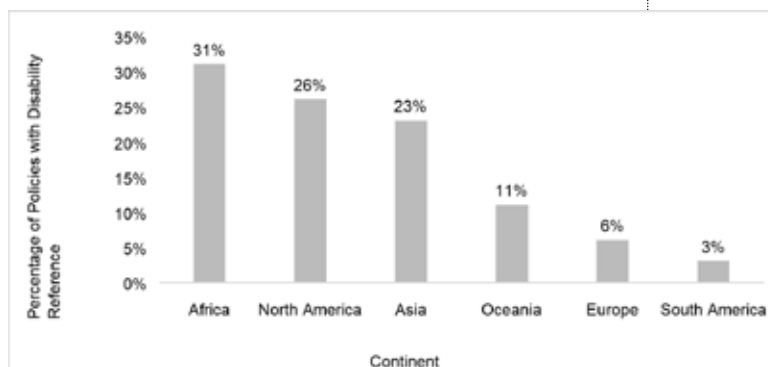


Figure 1: Disability Referenced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Source: Readapted from Jodoin, Lofts and Bowie-Edwards (2022)

Sadly, the top emitters in each continent, the USA (25 %), EU (22 %), China (12.7 %), Brazil (1.3 %), South Africa (1.3 %) and Australia (1.1 %) have no disability mainstreaming component (Jodoin/Lofts/Bowie-Edwards 2022) in their NDCs. Why is disability not centered in climate change actions? Disability statistics of the top three (3) emitters provide some insights. In the USA, the disabled population is 13% (Leppert and Schaeffer, 2023). In China, 6.2% of the population live with some form of disability (ILO and Irish Aid, 2013), while in India, amidst the growing population, the disabled population is reported to remain relatively the same at 2.2% (Iqbal, 2020). In Africa, South Africa – the top emitter – has 7.5% of the population living with some form of disability (Statistics South Africa 2014). Could the reason for non-inclusion result from disability statistics not catching up with the global average of 16%? – and should it? Togo, with a low disability prevalence of 1.36 %, captures issues on disability, hence not a justification. Or, with a limited understanding of disability, the focus on the “able” body within climate action or a laissez-faire attitude towards disability? I have more questions than answers. However, Africa, which has a majority of its NDCs referencing disability, demonstrates that parallel global statistics is not

the issue, as Togo, with 1.36 % and Seychelles, with 3 % of their population having some form of disability, which is far below the global average of 16% have disability components within their national climate plans. These developing countries have shown that the top emitters in the developed countries need to centre disability climate action; it is a social right and embodies social justice, and with time, everyone will experience some form of disability.

Moreover, money talks in these capitalist states, and since there is minimal data to support the economic benefits of disability inclusion, they are often situated along the margins. Yet, there is financial benefit to including disability, as Buckup (2009) provides data that places the cost of disability exclusion between 3 % to 7 % of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The social and economic benefits of disability inclusion will be thwarted as exclusion will avert sustainable development and, in this case, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

African countries are often portrayed as backward, and also, with negative perceptions of disability, have provided footprints of mainstreaming disability in climate mitigation and adaptation, which needs strengthening and replication.

Looking into the Future

Climate change magnifies the marginalization and exclusion experienced by persons with disabilities – the double jeopardy is they bear more social and economic burdens while contributing less to emissions. African countries have laid the path to surmount disability issues in climate action as persons with disabilities are recognized as part of the decision-making process and marginalized by the effects of climate change. Climate mitigation and adaptation developed without consultations and inclusion of persons with disabilities and organizations focused on disabilities create additional barriers and promote more significant exclusion. To reverse climate change's impact and halt the warming, considering disability inclusion incorporating intersecting identities such as gender and geography is a must.

NOTES

- 1 An integrated system of hazard monitoring, prediction, disaster risk assessment, communication and preparation activity systems/processes that enable timely action to reduce risks in advance (UNDRR 2020).
- 2 53 out of 55 African Union (AU) member countries, according to

- the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Registry
- 3 In Africa, particularly west Africa, the first 6 months have recorded 1800 attacks with approximately 4600 deaths and 6.2 million people displaced; although this is a horrendous impact of insecurity – its contribution to the disabled population cannot be over-emphasised with heightened adverse effects on displaced populations due to climate effects (Al Jazeera 2023)
 - 4 The systematic analysis of disability used 192 Parties as of June 2022, the 2022 NDC synthesis report used 193 Parties as of September 2022, as of July 2023, there are 195 Parties.
 - 5 16 countries: Barbados, Belize, Canada, Argentina, Republic of Togo, Seychelles, Togo, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Georgia, Moldova
 - 6 Carbo Verde, Chad, Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Mauritius, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia and Zimbabwe

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Die Gefährdung Afrikas durch den Klimawandel wirkt sich nachteilig auf marginalisierte Gruppen wie Menschen mit Behinderungen, Frauen und Kinder aus. Eine marginalisierte Gruppe, die übersehen wird, sind Menschen mit Behinderungen. Dies liegt auch an der Fokussierung auf den Rahmen des ‚abled-body‘, der Gleichsetzung von Inklusion und Gender – genauer gesagt, auf Frauen mit spezifischen Identitäten in Bezug auf Rasse, Einkommen und Geografie – und auf ein begrenztes Verständnis und die mangelnde Beachtung von Behinderung. Dies ist der Ausgangspunkt der laufenden Forschung der Autorin zum Thema „Was ist Behinderung - die Sinngebung von Behinderung in Ghana“. Dieser Artikel präsentiert ein Modell der Klimagerechtigkeit durch eine Situationsanalyse der afrikanischen Klimaökonomie, die geschlechtsspezifische und behinderungspezifische Perspektive des Klimawandels und die Analyse der Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) aus der Sicht von Menschen mit Behinderung. Der Artikel hebt hervor, dass die Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen in den Klimawandel und in Maßnahmen zur Eindämmung des Klimawandels sehr dünn ist, da die Demografie von Menschen mit Behinderungen oft übersehen und verschleiert wird. Darüber hinaus wird aufgezeigt, wie die Herausforderungen von Menschen mit Behinderungen systematisch ignoriert werden, da sie nur in begrenztem Umfang erwähnt werden, was für eine handlungsorientierte Sprache und einen zielgerichteten Ansatz zur Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderungen jedoch erforderlich ist. In diesem Artikel wird festgestellt, dass mehr afrikanische Länder als der Rest der Welt einen Weg eingeschlagen haben, um inklusive Klimamaßnahmen zu ermöglichen. Es bleibt jedoch noch viel zu tun. Um die jahrelangen Schäden des Klimawandels rückgängig zu machen und inklusive Maßnahmen zu gewährleisten, müssen Themen in Zusammenhang mit Behinderung ein roter Faden in den Reaktionen auf die Klimakrise und die Bildung sein - ein erster Schritt, den die afrikanischen Länder unternommen haben.

RÉSUMÉ

La vulnérabilité de l'Afrique au changement climatique porte atteinte aux groupes défavorisés tels que les personnes handicapées, les femmes et les enfants. Les personnes handicapées sont un groupe défavorisé négligé, principalement en raison de l'accent mis sur les cadres relatifs au corps valide et de la synonymie de l'inclusion avec le genre, plus précisément les femmes ayant des identités spécifiques en matière de race, de revenu et de géographie, ainsi qu'une compréhension et une importance limitées du handicap - ce qui est à l'origine de mes recherches en cours sur le thème «Qu'est-ce que le handicap - la définition du handicap au Ghana». Cet article présente un modèle de justice climatique à travers une analyse

situationnelle de l'économie climatique de l'Afrique, la perspective de genre et de handicap du changement climatique et l'analyse des Contributions Déterminées au niveau National (CDN) du point de vue du handicap. Le document analysé met l'accent sur la minceur de l'inclusion du handicap dans le changement climatique et les actions d'atténuation, car la démographie du handicap est souvent négligée et occultée. En outre, il met en évidence la façon dont les questions de handicap sont systématiquement ignorées par le biais d'une référence limitée au handicap, ce qui est nécessaire pour fournir un langage actionnable et une approche ciblée de l'inclusion du handicap. Ce document reconnaît que les pays africains sont plus nombreux que le reste du monde à avoir créé un précédent en facilitant l'action climatique en faveur des personnes handicapées. Cependant, il reste encore beaucoup à faire. Ce document conclut que pour inverser les années de dégâts causés par le changement climatique et garantir une action incluant le handicap, les questions de handicap doivent être un fil conducteur dans les réponses à la crise climatique et à l'éducation - une première étape franchie par les pays africains.

RESUMEN

La vulnérabilité de África al cambio climático afecta negativamente a grupos desfavorecidos como las personas con discapacidad, las mujeres y los niños; es a este primer grupo al que no se le presta la debida atención, principalmente a la atención que se da a los marcos basados en la capacidad corporal y a la sinonimia de la inclusión con el género, más concretamente, a las mujeres con identidades específicas en cuanto a raza, ingresos y geografía, así como a una comprensión e importancia limitadas de la discapacidad, lo que fundamenta mi investigación en curso sobre "Qué es la discapacidad: la creación de sentido de la discapacidad en Ghana". Este documento presenta un modelo de justicia climática a través de un análisis situacional de la economía climática de África, la perspectiva de género y discapacidad del cambio climático y el análisis de las Contribuciones Determinadas a Nivel Nacional (CDN) desde el punto de vista de la discapacidad. El documento analizado hace hincapié en la escasa inclusión de la discapacidad en las acciones relacionadas con el cambio climático y la mitigación, ya que la demografía de esta misma suele pasarse por alto y ocultarse. Además, desvela cómo las cuestiones relacionadas con la discapacidad se ignoran sistemáticamente a través de una referencia limitada a ésta, que es necesaria para proporcionar un lenguaje procesable y un enfoque dirigido a la inclusión de la discapacidad. Este documento coincide en que más países africanos que del resto del mundo han sentado el precedente de facilitar la acción climática inclusiva de la discapacidad. Sin embargo, aún queda mucho por hacer. Este documento concluye que para revertir los años de daños causados por el cambio climático y garantizar una acción que incluya a las personas con discapacidad, las cuestiones relacionadas con la discapacidad deben ser un hilo conductor de las respuestas a la crisis climática y la educación, un paso inicial dado por los países africanos.

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Disability-Inclusive Health and Climate: Calling for Converging and Integrating Policies

Davide Ziveri/Mary Keogh/Jennifer Pitter-López

Following a workshop and working group outputs within the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) exploring the impact of climate crisis among persons with disabilities, this paper focuses on the right to health that will be discussed at the next COP28 and how until now the intersection of disability, health and climate change has been overlooked. The authors of the paper propose three frameworks (intersectionality, social determinants of health, barrier analysis in accessing health information and services) to analyse the intersection of climate, health, and disability. The paper calls for converging and synergic narratives and policies between disability-inclusive climate action and health equity action.

Introduction

A growing body of evidence from the Planetary Health perspective, that adds to the environmental-health nexus a focus on the human factor and the social side of the ongoing biosphere crisis, highlights how climate change has a disproportionate impact among most marginalized populations. Moreover, climate injustice within and between countries mirrors pre-existing health inequities exacerbating discrimination and exclusion of different groups. Emerging evidence shows how persons with disabilities are being negatively impacted by the climate crisis and how the impact extends also to health and wellbeing (OHCHR 2020). The impacts of climate change are being discussed by a global network of experts in different sectors, where the majority of their events, spaces for decision-making, and their narratives about solutions are not actively engaging the perspective of persons with disabilities as well as their representative organisations. Networks of experts and organizations working on policies about climate, health, or inclusion operate on parallel tracks and separate fields in the global health landscape. Persons with disabilities generally

remain invisible in all these fields.

A study to better understand the unique challenges and opportunities for persons with disabilities in the face of climate change in Nepal, showed how persons with disabilities are a uniquely vulnerable population to climate-induced disasters, which are particularly life threatening for them; there is an information gap regarding climate change, that could be bridged using easy-to-understand information materials; and how climate shocks and stresses are severely threatening persons with disabilities' right to health, as they exacerbate their already higher health-care needs (M'Vouama et al. 2023.) Analysis by the OHCHR in 2023 highlighted how the impact of climate change cuts across all aspects of life for persons with disabilities.

This paper aims to contribute to a narrative about the understanding of the climate crisis at the social level for persons with disabilities and why inclusion is critical for successful outcomes. An opportunity presented itself recently at the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), a grouping of civil society and, especially, organisations of persons with disabilities, General Assembly

(GA) which took place in May 2023 in Copenhagen (Denmark). During this event the IDDC's climate action task group convened a workshop on the intersection of health, climate, and disability.

This paper is built around the three pillars of discussion at the workshop with a view to contributing to the growing narrative, policies, and action on the climate and health nexus. The three pillars are:

- (A) approaching the impact of climate change from an intersectionality lens;
- (B) considering inequities among social determinants of health; and
- (C) promoting meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their organizations in identifying and addressing barriers to accessing health services (OHCHR 2023).

The workshop participants had the opportunity to think about the interconnections among climate, health, and disability. The workshop itself was inspired by the World Health Organisation 2022 report on health equity for persons with disabilities. The paper presents the initial reflections from the May 2023 workshop and previous workshops within the consortium and other spaces for dialogue on those important topics. It does not cover a systematic analysis of existing discourses emerging from official documents, nor qualitative research with contributions by key informants. Rather, it is a personal reflection shared by co-chairs of the IDDC Climate Action task group that aims to reignite this debate to move toward inclusive climate action with a clear call to enrich evidence-based narrative, policies, and action on the climate and health nexus via these three pillars.

Context

The climate crisis disproportionately affects persons with disabilities, putting 1.3 billion of people (16% of the world population) at a higher risk of being affected by the adverse impacts of climate change on their health and well-being. Individuals exposed to multiple discrimination factors, for example, women and girls with disabilities, face intersectional discrimination and may require adequate measures to prevent negative health outcomes of the climate crisis, access to health and climate information and services, or to recover after a disaster. In addition, other factors create or exacerbate barriers for marginalized groups who suffer the negative externalities of the current polluting system of production and consumption, as well as the long-term consequences of the historical patterns of extraction, production, and consumption by High-Income Countries. Scientific evidence from the

2023 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2023) shows us the burden of the climate crisis for health, mental health and wellbeing (evidence labelled as high confidence proof) via complex pathways between environmental phenomena and public health issues. At each step of those pathways, social determinants shape health equity. The IPCC report highlights how climate change impacts the disruption of health services by extreme events; the increased occurrence of climate-related food-borne and water-borne diseases; and the weakness of health policies and health systems unable to manage the changing health burdens in coming decades.

Reviewing legal and policy aspects, it is important to highlight that States have the duty to take "all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk", according to Article 11 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD does not make any specific reference to climate change; however, a number of articles are related to the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities. The CRPD promotes that persons with disabilities are the real experts on inclusion, however it also recognises that many persons with disabilities may meet additional barriers to participation in sectors such as the disaster response planning for health emergencies, humanitarian emergencies, and healthcare services. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which sets four consensual priorities for action by diverse actors, was very inclusive of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations (OPDs) as a valuable stakeholder (IDA 2023). Civil society continues to criticize those commitments without action: for instance, disaggregated data and inclusive strategies still have a long way to go. Advocacy efforts in the direction of an inclusive DRR action in a planet facing increasing irregularity frequency and magnitude of disasters are pivotal to addressing barriers to resilient communities. The political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 reiterates the need for disability inclusive DRR, highlighting the importance of data.

In addition, at the global level, achieving universal health coverage (UHC), one of the targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda discussed this year at the UN General Assembly, is undermined by the impact of the climate crisis on health and health systems. From this perspective, the climate crisis is a health crisis, as expressed by the WHO General Director, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, in a famous tweet

„The most likely scenario, if no action for inclusive health and addressing injustice as soon as possible, is that barriers met by persons with disabilities will be the same experienced so far but exacerbated by a planet facing a huge crisis.“

on 20 May 2023. Aware of the burden of climate in terms of health, its impact on the health systems, and the consequences on the UHC agenda, the WHO called for putting health on the agenda of the negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since COP24 (WHO 2018). However, COP28, the next UN climate summit will be the first to consider health issues in depth, with a meeting of global health ministers to highlight the consequences of the climate crisis for wellbeing (Harvey 2023), following the seventh Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health in the WHO European Region.

The narrative of this paper considers all of the above and narrows to focus on how much marginalised groups are unfairly exposed to a higher risk of exclusion and suffering both during any phase of a disaster as well as during health prevention and access to health services. Authors argue that policies on climate and health that do not take into consideration inequities about social determinants of health among diverse groups missed a vital opportunity to achieve the right to health for all. Persons with disabilities meet specific barriers to attain the highest attainable standard of health as stated by Resolution WHA 74.8 by the World Health Assembly (WHO 2021a) and already recognized in Article 25 of the CRPD. Despite the right to health, the situation of accessing health services and information is very challenging for persons with disabilities: “Studies from different countries and including people with different or multiple types of impairments have shown that persons with disabilities have worse

health access and poorer health outcomes” (Kuper/Heydt 2019). According to the recent WHO Global Report on health equity for persons with disabilities, “Despite few successful examples, few countries make provisions for the requirements of persons with disabilities when planning for adapting to the effects of climate change” (WHO 2022). The report refers to two pillars of health: prevention that requires access to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, as recognized by the UN General Assembly in 2022 (UN News 2022), and access to health information and services, both for continuity of care and rehabilitation, as well as for new or emerging health needs in a warmer planet.

Pillar A: Approaching the Impact of Climate Change from an Intersectionality Lens

Intersectionality refers to how people’s experiences and their agency on what happens to them and their own environment are dynamically shaped by their identities, relationships, and social factors (UNPRPD/UN Women 2022) creating unique and diverse perspectives, opportunities, and capabilities. The WHO has stressed gender differences in health risks that are likely to be exacerbated by climate change (WHO 2014), but very little work has been done on understanding and considering intersectionality with factors such as sex, age, disabilities, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, race, and ethnicity when it comes to a forecast and prevent negative health outcomes due to the climate crisis. According to the preliminary outputs of the IDDC Climate Action workshop, the workshop participants working on disability issues within the IDDC consortium highlighted how some elements of the impact of climate on health issues are cross-cutting among age, gender, and disability status. It means that regardless of those dimensions, many diverse people are likely to suffer consistent damage to their livelihoods; increasing mental health burden; and, finally, the climate crisis will result in more people in need of health care. Participants at the workshop reflected on:

- a) Extreme weather events could affect a person differently because of intersectional factors and identities. E.g.: Heat waves can result in either older people needing to stay at home to be safe (with additional psychological challenges for isolated people with no caregivers or a solidarity network of support), or in children not being able to go to school, increasing the number of out-of-school days per year.
- b) Applying an intersectional lens to the impact of the

climate crisis could help to focus on the sexual and reproductive health. E.g.: pregnant women working outdoors during heat waves are at risk of miscarriage, early labour, and pregnancy complications (IPAS 2022). The risk of gender-based violence increases after extreme weather events (Van Daalen et al. 2022). Other intersectional risks for women may be the lack of resources, like potable water, which is often collected by women in unsafe conditions. This does not pretend to be an exhaustive list but are examples that represent key concerns emerging from the working group.

Women suffer disproportionate mortality and morbidity during and after climate-related disasters (Sorensen et al. 2018). Scientific literature (Desai & Zhang 2021) shows clearly that women's health is at higher risks due to the vulnerability to climate change, especially in low- and middle-income countries. However, climate research could and should be reinforced with systematic disaggregated analysis to reveal health inequities through an intersectional lens.

- c) When taking into consideration climate effects on health, disability matters. First of all, increasing phenomena such as conflicts or migration cause pressure on limited resources, and changing ecosystems' services will put at risk persons with disabilities involved or left behind. Overall, climate disasters and related social issues like conflicts and migration could result in increasing impairments and worsening poverty. It also could result in reduced government budgets already suffering from international debt, the financial cost of climate loans interests and the recovery costs from the pandemic. From a public health perspective, health services under additional stress because of disruption coupled with a higher demand may result in harder access and further discrimination for persons with disabilities with health needs.

Pillar B: Considering Inequities among Social Determinants of Health to Appreciate the Root Causes of Disproportionate Impact of Climate Change

Recently, the WHO report on health equity for Persons with Disabilities (WHO 2022) identified the contributing factors to systemic health inequities. Among those factors, climate is one of the key social determinants of health. Authors propose here to approach the issue the other way round: it is possible to apply the three categories of analysis adopted in the WHO report to assess health inequities related to climate crisis

among persons with disabilities.

- a) The first category is about structural factors, defined as "the socioeconomic and political context and the structural mechanisms that generate social stratification in society" (WHO 2022) including cultural and societal values. Among them, the workshop group highlighted how those values could reinforce stigma and discrimination. Related to this pathway, the authors acknowledge the importance of narratives emerging from those values that frame climate solutions without depicting the active role of persons with disabilities. In a disjointed narrative where disability inclusion and climate are separate topics, there is no room for accountability mechanisms to report and address discrimination.
- b) According to the disability creation model (Fougeyrollas et al. 2019) - a conceptual model that highlights the role of societal and environmental barriers - the lack of meaningful participation on an equal basis is due to the interaction of diverse factors, not only the impairment itself: environmental barriers limit and shape participation and the enjoyment of rights of persons with disabilities. The environment here refers to the conditions where people are born, grow, live, and age, thus, the so-called social determinants of health-SDH (WHO 2008). According to the highest state of evidence, climate change impacts on health are mediated through natural and human systems (high confidence). Therefore, analysing the access to SDH and addressing inequities at this level (like access to education, employment, etc.) identify key priorities to address in order to not enter into a negative circle of inequities.
- c) Finally, persons with disabilities, according to their living conditions and capabilities, may be exposed to specific and additional risk factors like environmental determinants of health (EDH). For instance, air pollution results in fewer opportunities for inclusive physical activity and outdoor exercises, and rehabilitation. Research in European countries also shows that persons with disabilities faced the risk of death, physical, social, and mental health distress due to extreme heat (Ćerimović 2023).

Applying a health inequity lens to the climate and health storytelling is very important because storytelling is one of the roots of social norms: when our narration of the climate crisis becomes able to see climate injustice, actions required go beyond the mere technological solution toward inclusive policies. It is possible that gradual changes in society to adapt to slow-onset changing environments without considering inclusion from the beginning may result in a long-term

acceptance of discrimination. It is also possible that the climate crisis will oblige us to rethink how our society is structured in terms of transportation, activities, and relationships and social norms will create new opportunities for inclusion. The transformative change that is needed in order to sustain our world can offer many possibilities for inclusion if it is considered from the outset.

Pillar C: Enriching the Climate-Health Narrative Considering Access to Health Information and Services

Healthcare is a critical issue for persons with disabilities as they have health needs as everyone else, which are often neglected; needs for specialized care and rehabilitation; and the cycle of poverty. However, “health services are often lower quality, not affordable, and inaccessible for persons with disabilities” as reported in the Missing Billion Report that collected existing knowledge on access to health (Kuper/Heydt 2019). The report collected qualitative data to show the journey of persons with disabilities toward receiving care, summarizing some of their experiences for each step. This model is represented at the centre of the figure below.

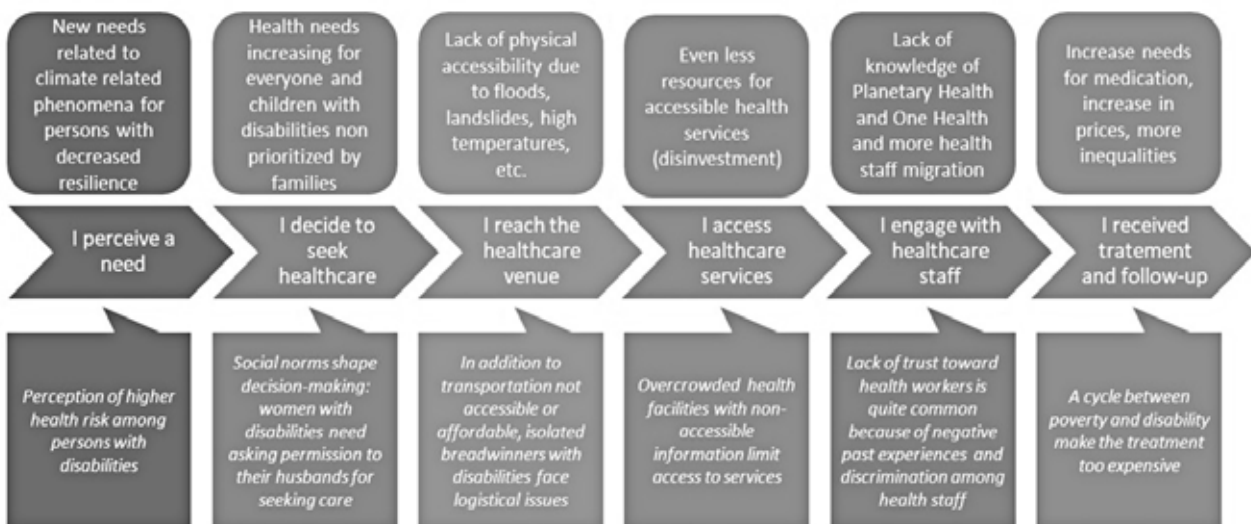
COVID-19 is an example of the global situation where it has been recently reported (Kuper/Heydt 2019) that persons with disabilities have 2.4-fold higher mortality rates than those without disabilities and are missing 10 to 20 years of life expectancy. Three years after the probably most disruptive zoonosis, the pandemic is not considered anymore a public health emergency of international concern (UN News 2023), persons with disabilities in internally displaced camps in a poly-crisis setting as Somalia still report not having received information about the COVID-19 vaccines. According to a mixed study (Ziveri/Abdullahi 2023), the

lack of access to prevention because of multiple barriers among behavioural and social drivers of immunization practices (WHO 2021b) resulted in a higher level of misinformation and a low immunization rate. Even beliefs about confidence in vaccine safety or in health workers are shaped by age, gender, or the type of impairment of each respondent. Self-identified barriers are reported at the bottom of the figure.

In the authors’ experience, inclusive and participatory workshops are an effective method to identify Accessibility, Communication, Attitude and Participation barriers (ACAP) to accessing health services. However, this exercise is less precise if applied on a general global level because many barriers could be contextual and they always are the by-product of socio-historical processes. For this reason, it is not possible to retrieve a model from a single workshop. However, every opportunity for meaningful participation contributes to interesting insights for exploring future scenarios. At the top of the figure, authors highlight a few examples of how climate crises may create or exacerbate barriers to accessing health services for persons with disabilities.

Conclusions

This paper moved from considering the importance of health equity and inclusive health when approaching the impact of the climate crisis on human health, a topic that is finally gaining traction in the global health agenda as well as in climate negotiations. Moving from acknowledging the importance of meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organization in defining the narrative of climate crisis impact and solutions, it offered three methods to approach the climate-health nexus from the inclusion perspective: using the intersectionality lens, focusing on equity among social determinants



of health, and making the journey to health care. In all those cases, it is a matter of applying existing frames to identify existing and potential barriers that may worsen the health outcomes among persons with disabilities in a planetary health crisis due to anthropogenic climate change and environmental degradation.

In conclusion, this paper suggests that existing health inequities and barriers to accessing health interact with climate effects. The most likely scenario, if no action for inclusive health and addressing injustice as soon as possible, is that barriers met by persons with disabilities will be the same experienced so far but exacerbated by a planet facing a huge crisis. Scientific evidence about the impact of climate on health exists, but there is a lack of disaggregated data that hide inequities among already discriminated groups such as persons with disabilities. Even more, qualitative data could support co-building a shared narrative about what the climate crisis is from the perspective of marginalized groups, which impact it may have, and which future we are moving toward a crisis that exacerbates existing health inequities or an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient health system. If the climate crisis implies more challenges for a health system, the efforts of donors, institutions, and health actors to strengthen it could open new opportunities for inclusion. The climate crisis affects us all: it is time to join efforts.

Recommendations for a Disability-Inclusive Climate and Health Narrative

To walk the talk, this paper closes with a few insights or pillars of an emerging narrative about inclusion in the climate and health nexus:

- Promoting meaningful participation of organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in the climate governance mechanisms and spaces, empowering OPDs to become climate-aware;
- Ensuring disability inclusion into the emerging fields of One Health and Planetary Health. It means that forums and initiatives in those fields, research, policy design, and programs under those approaches should integrate disability inclusion;
- Designing converging policies at the intersection of climate, health, and inclusion. This will result in inclusive, sustainable, and resilient health systems. The first step is considering health equity and inclusive health within the negotiations at the next COP28.

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ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Im Nachgang zu einem Workshop und die Ergebnisse einer Arbeitsgruppe des *International Disability and Development Consortium* (IDDC), die sich mit den Auswirkungen der Klimakrise auf Menschen mit Behinderungen befasst haben, konzentriert sich dieser Artikel auf das Recht auf Gesundheit, das auf der nächsten COP28 diskutiert werden wird, und darauf, wie die Überschneidung von Behinderung, Gesundheit und Klimawandel bisher übersehen worden ist. Die Autor*innen schlagen drei Herangehensweisen vor (Intersektionalität, soziale Determinanten der Gesundheit, Analyse von Barrieren beim Zugang zu Gesundheitsinformationen und -diensten), um die Überschneidung von Klima, Gesundheit und Behinderung zu analysieren. Der Artikel fordert konvergierende und synergetische Narrative und Strategien zwischen behindertengerechten Klimamaßnahmen und Maßnahmen zur Gesundheitsgerechtigkeit.

RÉSUMÉ

Suite à un atelier et aux résultats d'un groupe de travail au sein du Consortium International Handicap et Développement (IDDC) explorant l'impact de la crise climatique sur les personnes handicapées, ce document se concentre sur le droit à la santé qui sera discuté lors de la prochaine COP28 et sur la façon dont l'intersection du handicap, de la santé et du changement climatique a été négligée jusqu'à présent. Les auteurs de l'article proposent trois cadres (intersectionnalité, déterminants sociaux de la santé, analyse des obstacles à l'accès à l'information et aux services de santé) pour analyser l'intersection du climat, de la santé et du handicap. L'article appelle à des récits et des politiques convergents et synergiques entre l'action climatique intégrant le handicap et l'action en faveur de l'équité en matière de santé.

RESUMEN

Tras un taller y los resultados de un grupo de trabajo dentro del Consorcio Internacional sobre Discapacidad y Desarrollo (IDDC) en el que se exploró el impacto de la crisis climática entre las personas con discapacidad, este documento se centra en el derecho a la salud que se debatirá en la próxima COP28 y en cómo hasta ahora se ha pasado por alto la intersección entre discapacidad, salud y cambio climático. Los autores del documento proponen tres marcos (interseccionalidad, determinantes sociales de la salud, análisis de las barreras de acceso a la información y los servicios sanitarios) para analizar la intersección entre clima, salud y discapacidad. El documento reclama narrativas y políticas convergentes y sinérgicas entre la acción climática que tenga en cuenta la discapacidad y la acción en pro de la equidad sanitaria.

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First Explosive Weapons Monitor – Two Years of Harm to Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons (2021-2022)

This April, the first Explosive Weapons Monitor 2021-2022: Two Years of Global Harm to Civilians from the Use of Explosive Weapons was published. Being the first global report to examine the bombing and shelling of towns and cities, the documentation of the last two years of global harm to civilians from the use of explosive weapons leads to concern. The findings are worrying due to a sharp increase in civilian casualties in 2022. This can be explained by the significant increase in the use of explosive weapons in Ukraine and rising conflicts in Ethiopia, Myanmar, and Somalia. The use of explosive weapons in populated areas leads to 90 % of civilian victims. The aim of the Explosive Weapons Monitor is to provide an overview of the harmful impact of explosive weapons worldwide and to demonstrate the need to mitigate the risk to civilians. In addition, the Explosive Weapons Monitor should encourage states to join the international Political Declaration on the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas and to urge signatory states to actually implement it.

Introduction

The Explosive Weapons Monitor is a project of members of the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW), including Handicap International e.V. /

Humanity & Inclusion (HI), Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) and Insecurity Insight, which are the main contributors to the report. Thus, the Explosive Weapons Monitor is a civil society initiative that conducts research and analysis on harms caused by and practices of explosive weapon use in populated areas. The Explosive Weapons Monitor was published six months after the Dublin conference on November 18, 2022, where 83 states finally signed this international agreement to end the damage and suffering of civilians caused by explosive weapons in populated areas. The Explosive Weapons Monitor documents the destructive effects of explosive weapons in populated areas on civilians as well as on infrastructure in particular. Documenting this harm fulfils the moral obligation to understand and recognise the victims of armed conflicts but can also provide an evidential basis for harm reduction that can inform operational changes and responses.

What are Explosive Weapons?

Explosive Weapons are a broad category of weapons that use high explosives to create a zone of blast and fragmentation around the point of a detonation. The term includes various types of munitions such as mortar shells, rockets, artillery shells and unconventional booby traps.

Landmines and cluster munition also belong to the category of explosive weapons. Explosive weapons can be attributed similar characteristics. One is their range of effect, which can be from a few to several hundred meters around the point of detonation. Second, the degree of precision varies depending on the type of weapon. This can result in the weapon not reliably targeting or not only affecting the intended target. Third, the use of different types of explosive weapons at the same time in a conflict area can increase the range of effect of an attack. Missiles, in particular, are therefore referred to as area-covering explosive weapons. While the term *explosive weapons* can encompass the numerous different mentioned categories, the Explosive Weapons Monitor focuses on four key categorizations based on the broad method of delivery: Ground-Launched Explosive Weapons (e.g. artillery shells, rockets, hand grenades), Air-Launched Explosive Weapons (e.g. air-dropped bombs), Directly-Emplaced Explosive Weapons (e.g. anti-personnel mines), Combination of Explosive Weapons (Explosive Weapons Monitor 2023, p. 4).

Since the report is about the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, a brief definition of what populated areas means will be given. Populated areas are defined as any concentration of civilians, whether it is permanent or temporary, such as inhabited parts of cities, or inhabited villages, or as in camps or columns of refugees, or group of nomads.

Content of the Explosive Weapons Monitor

The Explosive Weapons Monitor reflects in numbers the humanitarian suffering of the civilian population, who feel the terrible and destructive use of explosive weapons. They have to struggle with the short-term and especially the long-term consequences. This first Explosive Weapons Monitor uses data from 2021 and 2022. In both years, not only cities such as Mosul (Iraq), Raqqa (Syria), Mariupol (Ukraine) and Hodeida (Yemen) were impacted by the use of explosive weapons, but also smaller villages and medium-sized urban centers. To give concrete figures, in 2022, 50,995 people were killed or injured by explosive weapons, the number includes 32,136 civilians. This represents an increase of 83% in civilian casualties of explosive weapon use since 2021, where 19,473 people were killed or injured, of who 11,102 were civilians. In table 1 (Explosive Weapons Monitor 2023: 8), a more disaggregated figure shows the civilian and armed-actor casualties from explosive weapons use, recorded by AOVAV from the years 2021 and 2022.

Civilian and armed-actor casualties from explosive weapon use recorded by AOVAV in 2021 and 2022

CASUALTY TYPE	2021	2022	TOTAL
Total civilian and armed-actor casualties (killed and injured)	19,722	31,273	50,995
Total killed (civilians and armed actors)	9,275	14,235	23,510
Total injured (civilians and armed actors)	10,447	17,038	27,485
Civilian casualties (killed and injured)	11,343	20,793	32,136
Civilians killed	3,502	6,886	10,388
Civilians injured	7,841	13,907	21,748

Table 1: Civilian and armed-actor casualties from explosive weapon use recorded in 2021 and 2022

Direct Effects of the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

The death and injury of civilians is one of the most direct forms of harm caused by explosive weapons. The humanitarian consequences are enormous. Typical physical injuries caused by the use of explosive weapons have been categorized by Humanity & Inclusion and include, for instance: Neurological injuries, thoracic injuries, amputation, eye injuries, soft tissue injuries and wound infection, groin and genital injuries, bone fractures. These types of injuries of survivors of explosive weapons often require long-term medical treatment. This creates a high need for rehabilitation in affected areas. Nevertheless, precisely these rehabilitation services are often not available or the functioning is impaired by the ongoing conflicts. In addition to the purely physical injuries, are the wide ranging psychological effects. For example, many of the inhabitants of a by explosive weapons targeted city experience traumatization. In addition to the damage to health caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, the use of explosive weapons can also cause large-scale population displacement and leaves contamination through unexploded ordnances that will endanger lives for years to come.

In order to provide targeted support to affected people, it is important to obtain more concrete and disaggregated data on the primary care and long-term support needs of persons with disabilities affected by the use of EWIPA. The political declaration on the use of EWIPA explicitly mentions the need for data collection, even though this refers rather to data on military operations. However, this commitment could also be extended to data collection on the previously mentioned short- and long-term support needs.

Indirect (Reverberating) Effects of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas

This leads onto the indirect (reverberating) effects of explosive weapons: the damage and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Meaning that, in addition to the horrific physical injuries caused by explosive weapons, they damage essential civilian infrastructure, like roads, hospitals or schools. Through this, the most crucial essential services get disrupted.

Insecurity Insight, one of the main contributors to the report, captured incidents of explosive operations affecting access to education, health care and aid. When large amounts of civilian infrastructure such as schools and hospitals are destroyed by bombing and shelling, there are serious long-term consequences for the surrounding population. Vital infrastructure and services, such as health care and humanitarian aid, are severely affected by explosive violence in urban areas: For the period 2021-2022, the Monitor reports 1,158 incidents of explosive weapons on vital infrastructure, with long-term consequences for the population. In 2022 alone, 603 incidents were reported in the health sector and 168 incidents in the education sector, resulting in long-term disruption of services to the local population.

A direct example for the better understanding of the reverberating effects caused by the use of explosive weapons was an attack on the Drama Theatre in Mariupol, Ukraine, on March 16, 2022. Civilians were killed and injured who had taken shelter in the Theatre after they left their destroyed homes and residents, which were without access to water, electricity, gas, phone services or internet after bombing and shelling by Russian armed forces. At the time of the attack, hospitals in Mariupol had already been damaged by or destroyed, diminishing access to care for civilians in need.

One of the devastating consequences of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas is the fact that the contamination of remnants of the weapons or unexploded ordnances pose a threat to the civilian population for decades to come. Clearance is costly and time-consuming, preventing residents from returning to their homes or carrying out their daily and economic activities.

In the first Explosive Weapons Monitor, concrete case studies from Ukraine, Ethiopia, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Syria and Myanmar provide a detailed account of the impact of ongoing bombing in urban areas. Table 2 (Explosive Weapons Monitor 2023: 15) shows more in detail which regions have the highest number of civilian casualties through explosive

Numbers of civilian casualties reported by AOV in Ethiopia, Myanmar, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Somalia, and Ukraine in 2021 and 2022

Country	Number of civilian casualties recorded by AOV in 2021	Number of civilian casualties recorded by AOV in 2022
Ethiopia	531	1.158
Myanmar	351	980
Occupied Palestinian Territories	1.478	169
Somalia	537	1.224
Ukraine	28	10.351

Table 2: Numbers of civilian casualties reported in Ethiopia, Myanmar, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Somalia, and Ukraine in 2021 and 2022

weapons.

Now a brief look into the methodology of the Explosive Weapons Monitor will follow in order to give an insight into the creation and background of the data. The Explosive Weapons Monitor is a civil society initiative that conducts research and analysis on harms from and practices of explosive weapon use in populated areas for the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW). It works with partner organisations to collect and publish data on incidents of explosive weapon use around the world as reported in open sources, including data from Action on Armed Violence (incidents of explosive weapon use and casualties, including deaths and injuries), and Insecurity Insight (incidents of explosive weapon use affecting aid access, education, and healthcare).

Conclusion/Outlook

The Explosive Weapons Monitor will be published every year with the aim to continue efforts to document harm to civilians from the use of explosive weapons through data collection, research and analysis. In doing so, the Explosive Weapons Monitor recalls the important political declaration to strengthen the protection of civilians. Equally, the investigations into the use of explosive weapons in populated areas serve as a basis for states to comply with the treaty and to persuade states to sign the treaty and oppose the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The Explosive Weapons Monitor also publishes monthly updates to be as up-to-date as possible¹.

NOTES

- 1 See Explosive Weapons Monitor June 2023: <https://www.explosiveweaponsmonitor.org/sites/default/files/downloads/EWM%20Mailchimp%20June%202023.pdf>

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Sozialverbände kritisieren Thüringer AfD-Chef

19 Sozialverbände kritisierten in einer ganzseitigen Zeitungsanzeige Thüringens AfD-Chef für seine Aussagen zur Inklusion im MDR THÜRINGEN-Sommerinterview.

Unter dem Titel „Es ist mehr als ein Alarmzeichen“ wiesen sie darauf hin, wenn Höcke ein Ende der Inklusion und damit eine Ausgrenzung von Menschen mit Behinderung fordere, sei das kein Zufall und kein Ausrutscher. In der AfD werde wiederholt gefordert, Menschen zu entrechten oder aus dem Land zu werfen, die nicht in das Weltbild des völkischen Nationalismus passen. Nach den Äußerungen Höckes im MDR THÜRINGEN-Sommerinterview hatte es bundesweit empörte Reaktionen gegeben. Höcke hatte gesagt, man müsse das Bildungssystem von „Ideologieprojekten“ wie der Inklusion und anderem „befreien“. Die Verbände argumentieren, wer so denke und spreche, stelle auch die Würde des Menschen als Individuum und die Universalität von Menschenrechten infrage - und damit Grundlagen einer demokratischen Gesellschaft.

Information: <https://www.mdr.de/nachrichten/thueringen/kritik-hoecke-zeitung-sozialverbaende-100.html>

Abschluss der Special Olympic: Inklusion muss Thema der Weltpolitik werden

Vom 17. bis zum 25. Juni 2023 war Deutschland das erste Mal Gastgeber der Special Olympics Weltspiele. An den Special Olympics 2023 nahmen etwa 6.500 Athlet*innen und Unified-Partner aus rund 190 Ländern in 26

Sportarten teil. Bei der Abschlussfeier in Berlin kündigte Entwicklungsministerin Svenja Schulze, die die Bundesregierung bei der Abschlussfeier der Special Olympics vertritt, an, den Einsatz für die Rechte von Menschen mit Behinderungen auf globaler Ebene fortzusetzen. Ministerin Schulze sprach davon, dass die Spiele nicht nur beeindruckende sportliche Leistungen erlebt werden konnten, sondern auch, dass das auf das Thema Inklusion aufmerksam gemacht wurde. Sie verwies darauf, dass der Einsatz für Inklusion auch nach den Spielen in Deutschland und weltweit weiter vorangetrieben werden muss. Es gilt, die rund eine Milliarde Menschen mit Behinderung stärker in den Fokus zu rücken und gemeinsam Barrieren abzubauen: ein Aufruf an das eigene Ministerium und die Gesellschaft an sich. Ein Schritt in die richtige Richtung ist es, dass Deutschland sich mit Jordanien zusammengetan hat, um 2025 gemeinsam den Weltgipfel für Menschen mit Behinderungen – den Global Disability Summit – auszurichten. Bei dem Gipfel geht es um die entwicklungspolitische Aufgabe, das Menschenrecht auf Inklusion in der Zusammenarbeit mit den Ländern des Globalen Südens konkret umzusetzen. Im April 2025 wird Berlin nach den erfolgreichen Special Olympics somit erneut Gastgeber sein.

Information: <https://www.bmz.de/de/aktuelles/aktuelle-meldungen/special-olympics-inklusion-muss-thema-der-weltpolitik-werden-157596>

Disability Justice Project: Stories Worth Telling

The Disability Justice Project (DJP) is a strategic partnership between the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), an international NGO funding grassroots Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in the Global South, Center for Independent Documentary, and journalism educator and human rights filmmaker Jody Santos and other nationally recognised media makers from Northeastern University's School of Journalism in Boston, Massachusetts. Based on a fellowship model, newer professionals with lived experience of disability from the Global South are paired with mentors/professional journalists in the U.S. In an exchange of ideas and experiences, the fellows learn about digital storytelling from some of the best in the industry, while the mentors learn about the global disability justice movement from frontline activists – with the goal of incorporating that new understanding into their reporting for publications like The New York Times and The Guardian or for broadcasters like PBS and ABC. Recognising the centrality of storytelling to systemic change, the DJP is a 12-week virtual programme, training fellows in everything from video production to rights-based reporting. Sending storytelling kits (cameras, mics, lights, etc.) to fellows all over the world, the DJP supports persons with disabilities to “take back the narrative” on disability justice. The DJP website is the first platform of its kind dedicated to disability justice in the Global South. Its purpose is to build a sustainable media network

of persons with disabilities, with collaborators from all over the world. It is highly recommended to check out the project's website and available stories under the following link.

Information: <https://disabilityjusticeproject.org/>

Bournemouth University Launches New Project to Strengthen Disability Rights in East and Central Africa

Academics from Bournemouth University have launched a new project designed to grow the power of young disability rights activists in East and Central Africa. The project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, includes a new advocacy and research network and a programme of knowledge exchange events between disability advocates, academics, campaigning organisations, and the media. The network convened its first meeting, the Festival of Disability Advocacy, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 17th to 20th April. The event welcomed youths with disabilities, campaign experts, journalists, and academics from Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda, as well as the UK and US. Principal Investigator Professor Dan Jackson said that the project aims to equip a new generation of disability advocates with the tools, skills, and resources to build powerful movements for change. The BU-led Festival of Disability Advocacy has already proved to be a catalyst for change. In its opening comments, the government announced the release of 3 billion Tanzanian shillings towards construction of three new disability-accessible colleges.

Information: <https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2023-04-28/bu-launches-new-project-strengthen-disability-rights-east-central-africa>

Disability Service Publishes Its First Online Magazine

The University of Cape Town's (UCT) Disability Service recently published an online magazine. The magazine focuses explicitly and exclusively on disability-related matters as it aims to educate readers on disabilities, advocate for disability accessibility and inclusion on campus and in broader society, and celebrate the wins within the disability sphere. The Disability Service collaborated with the Students with Disabilities Forum (SWDF) on this initiative. The SWDF is a UCT student governance structure for students with disabilities. The magazine is called DM, which is an acronym for Disability Matters. Lesego Modutle, the magazine's editor-in-chief, spearheaded the idea of the magazine and leads a team of UCT students with various disabilities, both visible and invisible, to create and collect disability-related content either by sharing their personal experiences or by conducting interviews with persons with disabilities or people who work within the disability field. DM is available under the Resources tab on the University of Cape Town's Office of Inclusivity & Change website.

Information: <https://www.news.uct.ac.za/article/-2023-05-31-disability-service-publishes-its-first-online-magazine>

Landmark Resolution on Strengthening Rehabilitation in Health Systems

The World Health Assembly endorsed the historic resolution on strengthening rehabilitation in health systems, which was developed under the leadership of Israel and cosponsored by 20 countries. The resolution calls for expanding and integrating rehabilitation in health systems as part of Universal Health Coverage (UHC), emphasizing the importance of

rehabilitation in primary care and as part of emergency preparedness and response. Member States underscored the major unmet need for rehabilitation from a range of health conditions including from communicable and noncommunicable diseases and injuries. There was an overwhelming emphasis that rehabilitation should be available to the whole population and should be integrated into national health plans and policies, inter-ministerial and intersectoral work and with meaningful participation of rehabilitation users. Delegates reinforced the importance of assistive technology as a key strategy to ensure strong and responsive rehabilitation systems and services. In addition, Member States noted the importance of specific areas of rehabilitation including psychological help and recovery from sexual violence and cancer care. Delegates acknowledged WHO's important role in strengthening rehabilitation in health systems and requested WHO to develop feasible targets and indicators; develop a baseline report on rehabilitation in health systems by 2026; support implementation of Rehabilitation 2030 including the implementation of technical guidance and resources; ensure appropriate resources are allocated at its headquarters, regional and local levels; and integrate rehabilitation and assistive technology in its emergency medical teams including addressing the long-term rehabilitation needs of people affected by emergencies.

Information: <https://www.who.int/news/item/27-05-2023-landmark-resolution-on-strengthening-rehabilitation-in-health-systems>

Soziale Sicherheit reduziert Armut und Hunger

Der Verband Entwicklungspolitik und Humanitäre Hilfe (VENRO) veröffentlichte im Mai 2023 eine Stellungnahme zur sozialen Sicherheit. In der Stellungnahme wird darauf verwiesen, dass soziale Sicherheit ein Menschenrecht ist. Nach Schätzungen der Internationalen Arbeitsorganisation (International Labour Organisation, ILO) leben dennoch weltweit rund vier Milliarden Menschen ohne sozialen Schutz. VENRO begrüßt, dass die Bundesregierung die soziale Sicherung im Zusammenhang mit einer feministischen Entwicklungspolitik stärken will. Mit der Stellungnahme fordert VENRO die u.a. dazu auf, Systeme und Instrumente sozialer Sicherung inklusiver zu machen, sodass alle Bevölkerungsgruppen – namentlich auch Menschen mit Behinderung – erreicht werden. Weitere Forderungen bestehen darin, dass Schocks und kollektive Risiken über Sozialsysteme abgesichert werden und dass nationale Regierungen die Zivilgesellschaft umfassend beteiligen müssen. VENRO setzt sich mit der Stellungnahme dafür ein, dass sich die Bundesregierung beim SDG-Gipfel im September 2023 und beim Zukunftsgipfel der Vereinten Nationen im September 2024 auf UN-Ebene für den Ausbau sozialer Sicherungssysteme mit klaren Zielvorgaben einzusetzen.

Information: https://venro.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Dateien/Daten/Publikationen/Standpunkte/VENRO-Standpunkt_Soziale_Sicherheit.pdf

The Ministry of Social Affairs Introduces a Social Protection Programme for Persons with Disabilities in Lebanon

Lebanon's Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), in partnership with the European Union (EU), UNICEF and the International Labour Organisation (ILO), launched the country's National Disability Allowance (NDA). The allowance is a social grant that will provide a direct income support to persons with disabilities living in the country. The NDA was designed to strengthen the existing national programmes and services dedicated to persons with disabilities. The NDA aims to support individuals with disabilities to face the extra cost of disability and facilitate their access to key services. While all persons with disabilities would ultimately be eligible to receive the NDA, youth aged 18-28 (born between 1995-2005) are prioritised during the first roll-out to support them in their transition to higher education or to joining the labour market. At least 20,000 individuals will benefit from a monthly allowance of US\$40 each over an initial period of 12 months. The allowance is linked to the Personal Disability Card issued by MOSA's Rights and Access programme, which manages a digital registry of all card holders. Operational and technical support to the programme and its centres was provided through UNICEF and ILO to aid the enrolment of eligible persons in the NDA. It is desired that after the end of the pilot, phase the National Disability Allowance should continue and expand, potentially being carried further as part of the Ministry of Social Affairs Rights & Access Programme.

Information: [https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/press-releases/ministry-social-](https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/press-releases/ministry-social-affairs-introduces-social-protection-programme-people-disabilities)

[affairs-introduces-social-protection-programme-people-disabilities](https://www.unicef.org/lebanon/press-releases/ministry-social-affairs-introduces-social-protection-programme-people-disabilities)

Afghanistan: Unemployment Worsens Humanitarian Crisis, Persons with Disability among Worst Affected

The International Committee of the Red Cross reports that 28 million people in Afghanistan – 65 per cent of the population – are currently in need of humanitarian assistance. Decades of conflict, natural disasters and economic challenges have fuelled poverty across all segments as people struggle to find ways of earning a livelihood. Especially in the past two years the employment situation in Afghanistan has worsened, notably because of the introduction of economic sanctions and the withdrawal of development aid organisations after August 2021. Those affected the worst are children, the elderly, people with physical disabilities and daily wage workers. Responding to the humanitarian crisis, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has developed a Safety Net programme to provide financial support to persons with disability who are breadwinners for their families but have no means of livelihood. Between February and March 2023, 3,862 families of persons with disabilities received cash grants through the programme at six ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres. Those who are included in the Safety Net programme are assessed individually through home visits conducted by the ICRC staff, including physiotherapists, to ensure they meet the required criteria for the grant.

Information: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/afghanistan-unemployment-people-disability>

Introduction to Disability-Inclusive Humanitarian Action

The global Reference Group on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action (DRG) have published an online training tool, which was developed and piloted between 2021 and 2022, and launched in 2022. This training has been designed to support trainers to facilitate learning, reflections, and discussions around disability-inclusive humanitarian action. It helps participants to strengthen the inclusion of persons with disabilities within the humanitarian context, with a focus on programming. The content is relevant across different humanitarian sectors and contexts of intervention. It hopes to be one of the catalysts for the operationalisation of the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. The training has a modular structure, with seven modules. Depending on the training audience's needs and time available, you are advised to select the most relevant modules. No registration is required and the training is accessible on the Handicap International-Humanity & Inclusion Leave No One Behind project website.

Information: <https://www.hi-deutschland-projekte.de/lnob/training-package/>

ILO Data Highlights Need for Disability Disaggregated Labour Force Surveys and Investment in Data Systems

Data on labour market disparities between persons with and without disabilities are essential to inform transformative policymaking and programming. Yet, in April 2023 the International Labour Organisation (ILO) announced that analysis of ILOSTAT datasets reveal that many countries do not collect population-level data on

disability status, hampering efforts to disaggregate labour market indicators. Investment in national data systems is needed to advance disability inclusion. In a blog post, the ILO focuses on Africa as an example of a continent where some progress has been made in developing more inclusive data systems in many countries, but where gaps still exist. The blog addresses that for key labour market indicators on ILOSTAT, only about half of all countries in Africa have disability disaggregated data. Hence, the coverage of disability-disaggregated indicators for African countries is still poor. Most countries exist somewhere on a continuum of progress towards regular, disability-sensitive labour force surveys. This continuum ranges from countries that have no national labour market data reported to the ILO or that have labour market data that does not allow for disability disaggregation, to those that run regular labour force surveys which consistently contain a measure of disability allowing for disaggregation, like Rwanda, Botswana or Ghana. Where labour market data do exist, they highlight stark disparities between persons with, and without disabilities. For instance, in Senegal, 78 per cent of young persons with disabilities are not in employment, education, or training (NEET), compared to only 33 per cent of persons without disabilities. Coupled with the regular collection of data on labour force participation, the new Washington Group ILO Labour Force Survey Disability Module could meaningfully improve countries' abilities to plan for and respond to the challenges faced by persons with disabilities. The module includes information on the barriers and attitudes persons with disabilities face in the labour market and

endeavours to provide insight into the main drivers of these inequalities and to identify the areas for improvement and policy strengthening. The module has been used in Mongolia and Iraq and there are plans to integrate it in the next labour force surveys to be run in Lesotho and Malawi later this year.

Information: <https://ilostat.ilo.org/ilo-data-highlights-need-for-disability-disaggregated-labour-force-surveys-and-investment-in-data-systems/>

Goal 4: Education for All Podcast Series

For experts working in the field and for interested listeners alike, this podcast discusses and examines the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all). The podcast features experts, development partners, researchers, and teachers discussing their education systems; specifically, what is working, and what needs to change. Goal 4: Education for All is a new podcast for those who work in the world of education to speak their mind, to share their knowledge, and to inspire you, the listener. The podcast looks into the current education crisis that seen millions of learners out of school every day and a potential loss of lifetime earnings going into the trillions of dollars. A particular focus is how we can change current education systems to better accommodate marginalised learners such as those with disabilities, girls, and those living in poverty. Against a background of high levels of inequality, politically polarised societies, conflict, and climate catastrophe, it has never been more important that new generations of young adults enter the world well educated and accepting of difference and diversity. The podcast is

available on the common podcast platforms.

Information: <https://www.inclusive-education-initiative.org/knowledge-repository/goal-4-education-all-podcast-series>

Local Tutor Discusses the Benefits of Online Schooling for Children with Learning Disabilities

Classrooms can be an unfavourable environment for children with learning difficulties. They frequently have low self-esteem and confidence and sometimes can even feel like they do not fit in. They tend to lose interest in their schoolwork and find it even more challenging to learn when they are subjected to all-day school pressure and are ridiculed by other pupils because of their disability. Thea van Tonder, a local tutor and founder of HT Tuition Centre in South Africa, online schooling has devised ways to provide a safe and stress-free atmosphere for children to attain their best potential and focus on what is essential. She claims that home-schooled learners tend to have more skills than the average student in traditional schools. Van Tonder runs a registered home-school centre that provides online schooling from grade R to grade 12, using an excellent award-winning platform, Think Digital Academy, which is South Africa's first virtual school offering the South African CAPS and is also registered with SACAI (the South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute), and follows the requirements for students to obtain their National Senior Certificate. Children with low marks in regular schools improved dramatically, going from a 30% average or less to a 65%–80% improvement. Tutors also provide after-school support to children battling Afrikaans,

English, and mathematics from grades 1 to 7, allowing them to grasp their work through one-on-one assistance better. These experiences can provide a basis for exploring innovative educational opportunities.

Information: <https://www.thisability.co.za/2023/06/07/local-tutor-discusses-the-benefits-of-online-schooling-for-children-with-learning-disabilities/>

Teacher Training Videos on Disability-Inclusive Education: Examples from Sierra Leone

In a study led by Humanity and Inclusion, the effects of the impact of mentoring and support for teachers are evaluated via a Community of Practice towards Disability Inclusive Classroom Practices. The research on innovative approaches to continuous professional development in Sierra Leone was supported by the Inclusive Education Initiative and turned into online training lessons. The videos, aimed at teachers, cover a range of training topics including developing IEPs, implementing inclusive lesson plans and providing individual support in an inclusive classroom. The videos can be accessed at the following link.

Information: <https://www.inclusive-education-initiative.org/knowledge-repository/teacher-training-videos-disability-inclusive-education-examples-sierra-leone>

Most Vulnerable Scholars Still Excluded from Learner Transport

33% of Learners with Special Education Needs (LSEN) and 19% of learners that qualify for learner transport do not receive the necessary transport assistance. This was revealed during a parliamentary portfolio committee on a crucial education meeting with

the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in May. The learner transport system in South Africa faces various challenges, particularly about including vulnerable scholars. One of the critical concerns is the inconsistency in the placement of the learner transport function within different provincial departments. The Democratic Alliance (DA) – the opposition party – believes that the process of learner transport should fall entirely under DBE and not be shared with the Department of Transport to ensure efficient and effective services for the most vulnerable in society. They stated that the exclusion of LSEN, who require needs-based government support is of great concern. These learners of varying ages and disabilities rely on schools for essential mental stimulation and physical therapy. Typically hailing from disadvantaged communities, these are the children that this programme was designed to assist. They call on the government to take proactive measures to rectify this situation and address this shortcoming.

Information: <https://www.thisability.co.za/2023/05/22/most-vulnerable-scholars-still-excluded-from-learner-transport/>

UNICEF

The State of the World's Children 2023

The world is facing a red alert for children's health: Vaccination coverage dropped sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving millions more children unprotected against some of childhood's most serious diseases. In addition, many millions of children from some of the world's most marginalised communities have long missed out on life-saving vaccination. Catch-up and recovery are needed urgently to vaccinate the children missed and to avoid further backsliding. And greater effort is needed to reach the children historically left behind. The State of the World's Children 2023 examines what needs to happen to ensure that every child, everywhere is protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it focuses on the role of poverty, marginalisation and gender in determining whether or not children are vaccinated. Drawing on lessons learned during the pandemic and from UNICEF's decades-long expertise and experience in vaccinating children, the report examines the ways in which primary health care can be strengthened to better support immunisation services. For the first time, the flagship State of the World's Children report has a statistical table in its annex with data on children with disabilities.

Bezug: <https://www.unicef.org/media/108161/file/SOWC-2023-full-report-English.pdf>

International Labour Organisation/UNICEF

More than a Billion Reasons: The Urgent Need to Build Universal Social Protection for Children

Social protection is a universal human right and a precondition for a world free from poverty. It is also a vital foundation to help the world's most vulnerable children fulfil their potential and increase their access to food, nutrition, education, and healthcare. But worldwide, 1.77 billion children aged 0–18 lack access to a child or family cash benefit, a fundamental pillar of a social protection system. Children are twice as likely to live in extreme poverty as adults. Approximately 800 million children are subsisting below a poverty line of US\$3.20 a day, and 1 billion children are experiencing multidimensional poverty. The impact on their lives, communities, societies, and economies can be devastating. The second International Labour Organisation (ILO) – United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) joint report on social protection for children reflects the shared commitment to strengthening social protection systems and expanding them to reach every child at risk. It explains why universal social protection should become a reality. It also documents the rapid positive changes in countries from Montenegro to Tunisia and the steps needed to accelerate progress.

Bezug: https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---soc_sec/documents/publication/wcms_869602.pdf

UNICEF

Inclusion Matters Inclusive Interventions for Children with Disabilities – An Evidence and Gap Map from Low- And Middle-Income Countries

In this publication UNICEF report their Evidence and Gap Mapping (EGM) of Inclusive Interventions for Children with Disabilities in LMICs. It shows that research is lacking in many critical areas: awareness and non-discrimination, protection, adequate standard of living, family and community life, and empowerment – that represent critical areas of policy and programming in need of robust evidence to improve inclusion and participation. Specific areas overlooked include tackling harmful stereotypes, tackling abuse and violence and ways to reduce stigma; on improving accessibility to water, sanitation, hygiene, housing and food; and interventions that aim for children with disabilities to enjoy their right to be heard, to play and to have their views considered in all matters affecting them.

Bezug: https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/Inclusion-Matters_Inclusive-Interventions-for-Children-with-Disabilities_An-evidence-and-gap-map-from-low-and-middle-income-countries.pdf

Ilse Maria De Jong/Sophia Celine Eugenia Koolen/Léa Françoise Roberte Guignard

Role of Young Carers of Parents with a Disability in Sierra Leone and Cameroon: An Explorative Study

This study aimed to get insights into the role of children who are caring for their parents with a disability in Sierra Leone and Cameroon. It was found

that children supported their parents in performing domestic chores, child-care, and intimate and general caregiving. They also gave emotional support, mostly by showing compassion. Most parents wanted more help in raising their children, as well as financial support. Fieldworkers judged the caring roles of children as a responsibility, a blessing, or a burden. This study indicates that children play diverse roles in caring for their parents with a disability. Future research could map cultural norms and expectations about a child's caregiving responsibilities, and focus on the possible consequences for a young carer, like dealing with poverty or being unable to attend school.

Bezug: <https://dcidj.org/articles/543>

Alexandra H. Blackwell/Jean de Dieu Hategekimana/Daddy Bauma et al.

Violent Discipline in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo: The Role of Child Gender and Disability Status in Cross-sectional Analysis

Violence is used to punish or educate children across the world, with detrimental effects on their physical, emotional, and social health that persist into their adulthood. This study aimed to understand the use of violent discipline by caregivers in conflict-affected communities and how it varied by the child's gender and disability level. Results suggest that levels of violence in conflict-affected households in North Kivu, DRC are high, with women reporting higher levels of violent discipline overall, and amplified use of violence against girl children with disabilities. More research and programmes with an intersectional lens are needed in conflict settings to better understand and address the use of violent discipline and underlying discriminatory norms around gender and disability.

Bezug: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10995-023-03598-4>

World Vision/Action for Humanity

Hard Lessons: An Inquiry into Children with Disabilities' Exposure to Protection Risks in Lebanon and Northwest Syria

This study conducted by World Vision (WV) and Action for Humanity (AFH) looks into Syrian children with disabilities' exposure to protection risks in Lebanon and Northwest Syria. Between October 2022 and January 2023, WV and AFH conducted a mixed methods study that included surveys with 144 caregivers and parents of children with disabilities in Lebanon and Northwest Syria – as well as Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with children with and without disabilities, caregivers and teachers. The study found that Syrian girls and boys with disabilities are more exposed to protection risks, school facilities are inadequate and lack specialised teaching skills to accommodate their learning and a safe, more inclusive and quality education system is needed urgently to make sure public schools are accessible for all children.

Bezug: <https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/Hard%20Lessons%20Report-Final.pdf>

UNICEF

Discussion Paper: Key Issues for Children with Disabilities in Indonesia

This discussion paper highlights the key data, challenges, and opportunities to support children with disabilities in Indonesia. It was developed to trigger and support multi-stakeholder discussions around this important agenda for children with disabilities and ways of developing an inclusive society in Indonesia. This paper examines the situation of children with disabilities across six pillars: education, health, nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene, child protection and social protection. The analysis found that, although

policies and regulations are in place to protect the rights of children with disabilities to benefit from social services, they experience inequity compared to non-disabled children in terms of both access to and use of social services. In response, the paper identifies a number of recommendations for the inclusion of children with disabilities to benefit from essential services.

Bezug: <https://www.unicef.org/indonesia/media/16746/file/Discussion%20paper:%20Key%20issues%20for%20children%20with%20disabilities%20in%20Indonesia.pdf>

Behinderung und Entwicklungszusammenarbeit e.V.

Inklusive Gestaltung von Entwicklungsvorhaben leicht gemacht: Eine Handreichung mit dem Index für Inklusion

Niemanden zurückzulassen geht für Nichtregierungsorganisationen und ihre Projektpartner im Globalen Süden auch mit wachsenden Anforderungen einher, Inklusion in ihren Projekten und Programmen zu berücksichtigen. Menschen mit Behinderung werden noch viel zu häufig nicht in Maßnahmen und Programmen der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit, die ihre Situation verbessern könnten, einbezogen. Diese Tatsache nehmen immer mehr Nichtregierungsorganisationen zur Kenntnis. Dabei fehlt es jedoch vielfach an Kenntnissen darüber, wie Projekte und Programme inklusiv gestaltet werden können. Diese Handreichung befasst sich sowohl mit dem „Warum“ als auch mit dem „Wie“ der Inklusion von Menschen mit Behinderung in Entwicklungsprogrammen und -projekten. Sie richtet sich speziell an Nichtregierungsorganisationen, die innerhalb ihrer Organisationen einen Wandel hin zu einer inklusiven Projektarbeit herbeiführen möchten.

Bezug: <https://www.bezev.de/de/home/bestellungen-und-newsletter/inklusive-gestaltung-von-entwicklungsvorhaben-leicht-gemacht/>

Jörg Weber/Shاون Grech/Sarah Rule et al.

The Lost Link: Localisation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2008 was an important shift in response to the host of barriers faced by persons with disabilities around the world. To ensure that the CRPD is genuinely transformative in the lives of persons with disabilities, it needs to be implemented and enforced at the most local level, responding to the varying needs and contexts of persons with disabilities in their homes and communities. This study led by CBM with support from BMZ explores how this might happen and provides concrete recommendations for change. The study includes research into the extent to which the CRPD is already being localised, with an emphasis on countries in the Global South; an exploration of the barriers preventing localisation, including a lack of understanding about how to translate the CRPD into concrete practice and benefits on the ground; and specific recommendations for global policy makers and monitoring bodies, national and local governments, Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and civil society stakeholders.

Bezug: https://www.cbm.org/fileadmin/resourcespace/Localization_of_the_UN_CRPD_AT.pdf

Callista K. Kahonde

A Call to Give a Voice to People with Intellectual Disabilities in Africa through Inclusive Research

Research looking into the day-to-day lives of people with intellectual disabilities (ID) is on the increase in Africa. However, not enough is being done to include people with ID as active contributors to this research through inclusive approaches. Inclusive research empowers people with ID as they have

the agency and autonomy to speak for themselves and they are given an active voice in the research process and outcomes. This leads to services that cater for what matters to people with ID themselves as opposed to having their needs defined by other people. The common myths and misconceptions attached to ID in Africa, which increase stigma towards people affected by this type of disability can be abated by their visibility in research and evidence of their ability to express themselves. This article makes a call to researchers on the African continent to include people with ID in research as active contributors to the research and not simply as research subjects or respondents. A background is given of global developments that have occurred in inclusive research based on the literature and the author's personal experience, which African researchers can learn from while taking cognizance of the specific needs of their own contexts. This is followed by highlighting the gaps in Africa. The article ends with a discussion of possible reasons for a lack of inclusive research in Africa and suggestions and recommendations to address this gap.

Bezug: <https://ajod.org/index.php/ajod/article/view/1127/2344>

Lena Morgon Banks/Arne H. Eide/Xanthe Hunt

How Representative Are Organisations of Persons with Disabilities? Data from Nine Population-Based Surveys in Low- And Middle-Income Countries

Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) are critical to promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. However, little is known about the extent to which persons with disabilities are aware and members of OPDs. This study uses data from nine population-based surveys in low- and middle-income countries to explore OPD awareness and membership. Across settings, about a third of

persons with disabilities were aware of OPDs and fewer than 15% were members. Awareness and membership were lower amongst older adults, women, persons with difficulties communicating, remembering and with self-care, people with less education, in poverty and in rural areas. Underrepresentation of certain groups may indicate a need to seek out the voices of people less likely to be associated with OPDs. Further, low total membership may be a cause for concern in settings where OPDs are relied upon to deliver essential services in the absence of state structures.

Bezug: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/09687599.2023.2215397?needAccess=true&role=button>

International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

Deaf People in Iraq, a Cultural-Linguistic Minority: Their Rights and Vision for Inclusion

Deaf people in Iraq have experienced significant disadvantages from decades of armed conflict, terrorism, war, stigma, and economic hardship. Deaf people, a cultural-linguistic minority, have rarely been consulted in Iraq on matters related to their daily life, rights and vision for the future. There is a real need for the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and other humanitarian, transitional and development agencies to be informed on how to ensure information and projects are accessible to the deaf community. This report identifies concrete ways for members of the Federal Government of Iraq, Kurdistan Regional Government, United Nations Country team, national and international NGOs, local Civil Society Organisations and stakeholders to address barriers experienced by deaf people, in partnership with deaf people.

Bezug: <https://iraq.iom.int/resources/deaf-people-iraq-cultural-linguistic-minority-their-rights-and-vision-inclusion>

Joseph Ocran

Disability, Political Citizenship and the Challenge of Inclusion in National Politics: Analysis of Five Cases from Ghana

Participation of persons with disability in national politics in Ghana is generally low. This is because of attitudinal barriers, resource constraints and accessibility challenges in the built environment. This study explored the role of political leadership in the perpetuation of barriers to the political citizenship of persons with disability and their inclusion in national politics in Ghana. Using a qualitative approach, five cases involving public commentaries of prominent political figures about disability and persons with disability were analysed thematically. Three themes that emerged from the cross-case analysis of the cases were persistence of traditional beliefs towards disability and persons with disability, stereotypes about functional limitation in persons with disability and the use of insensitive language made about disability and or directed at persons with disability. Given that the laws of Ghana affirm the rights of persons with disability to participate in national politics, these findings underscore the need for the state to ensure that these rights are not curtailed, and that policies and laws that are meant to facilitate the inclusion of persons with disability in political activities are implemented wholly and effectively. It is only when these steps are taken that the political citizenship of persons with disability will be guaranteed.

Bezug: <https://journals.ug.edu.gh/index.php/gssj/article/view/2107>

UNICEF

Mapping and Recommendations on Disability-Inclusive Education in Eastern and Southern Africa

UNICEF has released a study on disability inclusive education that maps the progress of countries in Eastern and Southern Africa region (ESAR) in advancing inclusive quality education for all children. The focus is placed on children with disabilities at pre-primary, primary, and lower secondary levels. The study includes a review of inclusive quality education policies and practices in ESAR to identify successful practices, innovative approaches, and gaps.

Bezug: https://www.unicef.org/esa/media/12201/file/Full_Report_Mapping_of_Progress_towards_disability-inclusive_in_ESA.pdf

Mary Wickendena/Josephine Njungi/Brigitte Rohwerder

Inclusive Early Childhood Development and Education in Kenya: What Do Parents, Teachers and Children Understand, Perceive and Experience?

This paper describes qualitative research nested in a larger intervention programme developing and piloting a model of disability inclusive early childhood development and education (ECDE) in two districts in Kenya for future national rollout. The findings were analysed thematically using a collaborative online process with the team, generating eight key themes, the main five of which are presented here. Parents and teachers were generally positive about children with disabilities attending mainstream ECDE classes, as were children themselves. However, understandings about inclusion and what it implies were rather variable. Some adults were unsure whether all children with disabilities could be included in local pre-schools.

There were major concerns about school resources, training, skills and numbers of teachers, accessibility, and safety. For many parents living in poverty, the cost of sending their child to school was a factor. Having peer researchers involved, had many benefits as they were perceived as empathic facilitators and inspirational for children with disabilities and their parents.

Bezug: https://disabilityglobalsouth.files.wordpress.com/2023/05/03_10_01.pdf

World Bank

Inclusive Early Childhood Education for Children with Disabilities in Indonesia

Children with disabilities are often left out of the education system globally. In many countries children with disabilities are more likely to remain out of school than other children across all education levels. Indonesia is no exception, and despite the government's efforts in recent decades, in particular, inclusive early childhood education (ECE) for children with disabilities is still significantly overlooked in policy, practice and empirical research. Rather, inclusive education policy and programmes often highlight primary and secondary education, meanwhile inclusion is not a key focus in ECE in Indonesia. This study addresses the dearth of research on inclusive ECE in Indonesia. Given the critical importance of access to education from the early years onwards, and the potential positive impact of ECE on children's lives, this study has a specific focus on children aged four to six. It examines current practices and key issues from multiple perspectives to tackle several interrelated issues with an aim to inform future policy formation and practice. Multilevel analysis of this rich data revealed hidden and complex issues related to inclusive ECE in Indonesia. Gaps are identified between policy interventions, school dilemmas and struggles in classrooms, and between

the supply and demand side, especially considering the perspectives of parents of children with disabilities, who tend to be overlooked despite their key role in their children's education.

Bezug: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099554306052314974/pdf/IDU08a4068a10bf820443d0a3f3062d35276e9bd.pdf>

Shehreen Iqtadar/Brent C. Elder/Nasir Ahmad

Towards Inclusive Education: Narratives of Setting Up a School for Students with Disabilities in Afghanistan

Following decades of social and government upheavals, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated challenges for the education system in Afghanistan, particularly the education of students with disabilities living in under-resourced conditions. In this article, the authors explore the narratives of three members of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in Afghanistan about the development of a pioneering special education school with an inclusive education approach in Kabul, Afghanistan. Using an interdisciplinary Critical Disability Studies (CDS) and Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) approach rooted in grounded theory and qualitative methods, they situate these narratives within current trends and promising practices in inclusive education and educational needs and barriers in Afghanistan. The findings highlight (a) the benefits of a multi-sectoral whole family approach to education, (b) the obstacles to the school's establishment and the reliance on NGOs for such initiatives, and (c) complex inner workings of gender and disability for female students in the country. The authors also discuss the implications of an intersectional approach for the work of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Bezug: https://disabilityglobalsouth.files.wordpress.com/2023/05/04_10_01.pdf

Anna Hata/Han Wang/Joko Yuwono/Shinsaku Nomura

Assistive Technologies for Children with Disabilities in Inclusive and Special Schools in Indonesia

This study addresses this knowledge gap, focusing on the Indonesian context. The empirical study of the Indonesian context aims to rigorously examine availability and usage of AT for children with disabilities. It reviews key challenges and support needed in both inclusive and special schools, focusing on teachers in primary and secondary education in Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (MoECRT). Key questions included the availability and use of AT for students with disabilities in schools in Indonesia, and how teachers, schools, and local and national stakeholders can work together to promote equitable and quality learning through AT for children with disabilities. To answer these questions, this study employed a mixed method to enhance the validity and quality of evidence based analysis of AT for children with disabilities in Indonesia, including a national level teacher survey with over 2000 teachers who participated voluntarily, focus group discussions with teachers, school principals and policy makers as well as an international review of practices on AT for children with disabilities to address the lack of previous studies in Indonesia.

Bezug: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099543306052328820/pdf/IDU01f2788e204497047d60a3ea05db5ca5d1a6b.pdf>

Chantal Figueroa

Mental Health as an Educational Outcome: Lessons for Inclusive Education from the Austral in Neuquén, Argentina

This paper presents lessons from the Austral Institute of Mental Health in Neuquén, Argentina from observations of the youth clinical treatment and in-depth interviews with the staff and patients that had completed their treatment for more than a year. The paper reveals a clinical model that is in large part based on pedagogical practices, especially focused on building community and fostering critical mental health awareness. These latter strategies are presented as a blueprint from Latin America for reimagining inclusive education, by conceptualizing mental health as an educational outcome and making classrooms inclusive of all students. By presenting the educational ways in which the Austral delivers psychiatric treatment, this paper argues that conceptualizing mental health as an educational outcome provides the opportunity for inclusive education to support the mental health of all students and specifically students with psychiatric disabilities that continue to be pulled-out of school to receive treatment.

Bezug: https://disabilityglobalsouth.files.wordpress.com/2023/05/06_10_01.pdf

Ndakaitei Manase

Self-Devised Assistive Techniques by University Students with Learning Disabilities

Access to assistive technology for disabilities is limited in low-resource settings. Therefore, existing research focuses on accessibility challenges. This article focuses on how students with learning disabilities manage learning in the absence of assistive technology, a subject that receives less scholarly attention. This study established that with limited access to

assistive technology, students manage learning through self-devised means that are more socially than technologically or scientifically inspired such as self-affirmation, animal therapy, family support and prayer. Conversion factors, which affect ability by either enabling or constraining access to assistive technology, were identified at personal and institutional or environmental levels. The article concludes that even though students with learning disabilities devise unconventional assistive ways to manage learning, failure to access assistive technology is a capability deprivation that promotes inequalities.

Bezug: <https://ajod.org/index.php/ajod/article/view/1106/2191>

USAID

Feeding and Disability Resource Bank: A Collection of Resources to Address Feeding Difficulties and Disability Inclusion in Nutrition Programs

The CRPD and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) highlight that both children with and without disabilities have the same rights, including the right to access healthy food and adequate nutrition, to receive essential nutrition services, and to reach their highest attainable standard of health. However, social, institutional, economic, and political barriers often prevent children with disabilities from attaining that standard. The Feeding and Disability Resource Bank is a repository of materials that help nutrition and disability programme managers, government leaders, and donor agency staff design and implement effective nutrition programmes for children with disabilities. The resource bank includes manuals, job aids, training curricula, and assessment tools as well as research articles that provide programmatic tools. All selected resources are easy to read and understand, free to access, not subject to

copyright restrictions, and relevant to one of the following five thematic sections of the Resource Bank: Identifying Feeding Difficulties, Managing Feeding Difficulties, Identifying Disabilities, Supporting Children with Disabilities and Their Families, Promoting Disability Inclusion.

Bezug: <https://www.advancingnutrition.org/resources/disability-resource-bank>

Olayinka O Omigbodun/Grace K. Ryan/B Fasoranti et al. **Reprioritising Global Mental Health: Psychoses in Sub-Saharan Africa**

Arthur Kleinman's 2009 Lancet commentary described global mental health as a "moral failure of humanity", asserting that priorities should be based not on the epidemiological and utilitarian economic arguments that tend to favour common mental health conditions like mild to moderate depression and anxiety, but rather on the human rights of those in the most vulnerable situations and the suffering that they experience. Yet more than a decade later, people with severe mental health conditions like psychoses are still being left behind. Here, the authors add to Kleinman's appeal a critical review of the literature on psychoses in sub-Saharan Africa, highlighting contradictions between local evidence and global narratives surrounding the burden of disease, the outcomes of schizophrenia, and the economic costs of mental health conditions. They identify numerous instances where the lack of regionally representative data and other methodological shortcomings undermine the conclusions of international research carried out to inform decision-making. Their findings point to the need not only for more research on psychoses in sub-Saharan Africa, but also for more representation and leadership in the conduct of research and in international priority-setting more broadly – especially by people with lived experience from diverse backgrounds. This paper

aims to encourage debate about how this chronically under-resourced field, as part of wider conversations in global mental health, can be reprioritised.

Bezug: <https://ijmhs.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13033-023-00574-x>

Bolajoko O. Olusanya/Claudine Storbeck/Vivian G. Cheung/Mijna Hadders-Algra **Disabilities in Early Childhood: A Global Health Perspective**

Prior to the launch of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, childhood disability was rarely considered an important subject in global health. The SDGs till 2030 now require that children under five years who are at risk of not benefiting from inclusive quality education are identified, monitored, and promptly supported. A tool for identifying children who are not developmentally on track has been developed by UNICEF but has limited sensitivity for detecting children with disabilities due to reliance on parental assessment of child behaviour in certain everyday situations. In this paper, the authors identified conditions that are commonly associated with developmental disabilities based on the International Classification of Diseases (ICD) codes and clarified the concept of *developmentally on track* as it relates to children with developmental disabilities and developmental delays. They summarised the latest evidence on the global burden of developmental disabilities in children under five years based on the diagnostic and functional approaches for measuring disabilities at the population level. They highlighted the global health context for addressing the needs of children with developmental disabilities and provided an overview of the opportunities and the role of pediatric caregivers in supporting children with developmental disabilities.

Bezug: <https://www.mdpi.com/2227-9067/10/1/155>

Maria Kett

Assistive Technology in Two Humanitarian Contexts: Bangladesh and Jordan

Despite increased focus on the need for assistive technology (AT), along with estimates of need and gaps in provision in humanitarian contexts, very little is actually known about how people who need AT are managing in these contexts. To address this need, this study explored four main questions: What do we currently know about the need for AT in humanitarian contexts? How is this need currently met? What gaps are there in the evidence about these needs? What mechanisms are needed to ensure provision of AT in humanitarian contexts? It explored these questions through individual interviews with AT users and their families, as well as people working in the sector, in two humanitarian response contexts: Bangladesh and Jordan. The research found that it is clear that the provision of AT (in this case mainly assistive devices) is ad hoc, and largely related to the access, availability and focus of NGO-funded projects in camps or communities. When it was available, for many of those interviewed, AT had a positive impact on their lives. However, devices alone cannot ensure wider inclusion – for that, there still needs to be attitudinal change, environmental adaptations, better provision of resources and much wider awareness about the policies and legislation that support the rights of persons with disabilities, including those who have crossed an international border to seek safety and security.

Information: https://at2030.org/static/at2030_core/outputs/Report_on_AT_in_Two_Humanitarian_Settings_iEr3K6r.pdf

Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)

Towards Truly Universal Access: Barriers to Accessing Health Services for People with Disabilities in Northwest Syria

The Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) conducted a study to better understand the barriers to accessing healthcare services for persons with disabilities in Northwest Syria. Barriers, in this regard, were classified into financial, structural, communication, and attitudinal barriers. In addition to improving understanding of barriers to accessing services, the study also aimed to examine the prevalence of disability among SAMS' beneficiaries and workers and understand coping mechanisms by the affected population and their recommendations.

Information: https://www.sams-usa.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/DISABILITY-REPORT-2022-print_230530_023039.pdf

CBM Global

Climate Change and Disability Rights: Does the Climate Crisis Impact Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)?

This paper focuses on three country case studies from Kenya, Nepal and Bangladesh. The original research which inspired the discussion paper was carried out by master's students at the London School of Economics. It was an innovative study that investigated what limited data is available. The discussion paper highlights how existing challenges in participatory budgetary processes can be further exacerbated during times of climate crisis. It also highlights how during times of crisis budgets allocated for disability rights can come under pressure to be reallocated. The paper also provided some practical ways forward which included recommendations for participatory budget processes, the need for better data and improved

coordination between government Ministries.

Bezug: <https://cbm-global.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/CRPD-CC-Discussion-Paper-final-text-070623.pdf>

BUNDjugend

VerRücktes Klima-BeHinderte Lösungen. Perspektiven auf Ableismus und Klimakrise

In diesem Sammelband werden 18 Beiträge von verschiedenen Menschen vorgestellt. Es wird erklärt: Was bedeutet Ableismus? Was hat Ableismus mit der Klimakrise zu tun? Es geht auch um die Erfahrungen von Menschen mit Behinderung in der Klimabewegung und um Forderungen und konkrete Ideen. Der Sammelband stellt verschiedene Formen von Aktivismus und einige (Klima-)Aktivist*innen mit Behinderung vor. Einige der Texte sind dabei ausschließlich in einfacher Sprache verfasst.

Bezug: https://www.bundjugend.de/wp-content/uploads/verRuecktesKlima-beHinderteLoesungen_digital.pdf

International Disability Alliance (IDA)

The Bali Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction: A Turning Point for Disability Inclusion?

This Report provides a brief summary of activities and achievements of participation of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DI-DRR) activists in the seventh Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) from 23 to 28 May 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. IDA participation in the platform was co-funded under the project Putting Persons with Disabilities at the Center of Disaster Preparedness and Response, sponsored by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany (FFO).

Bezug: https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/ida_report_gp2022.pdf

*The Alliance for Child Protection
in Humanitarian Action*

**Guidance Note: Qualitative
Assessment Approaches for
the Protection of Children
with Disabilities Within
Humanitarian Contexts**

Children with disabilities are particularly vulnerable in humanitarian settings, yet they are often not able to access the services and protection they need. While multiple factors create these barriers, a major cause is how data about children with disabilities is collected and mapped. Data collection processes often exclude or underrepresent the views of children with disabilities and their caretakers. When the experiences of children with disabilities and their caretakers are not defined and collected, they become excluded from mainstreamed protective services, which are meant to serve all children. Children with disabilities also do not get the specialised interventions they need. This guidance note explores how to use qualitative methods to create more robust assessment processes to ensure more effective programming and services for children with disabilities. This note provides promising practices for engaging with children with disabilities and includes sample tools that can be tailored to fit the needs of a particular assessment process. The note also explores the importance of thoughtful cross-sectoral responses so that children with disabilities, and their families, are carefully considered in areas like water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), education, health, and nutrition, and therefore receive the holistic support they need and deserve. This note is intended for a broad audience of relevant child protection actors, including practitioners, coordination groups, researchers, and donors. The information is not limited to one type of humanitarian setting, geographic region, or culture. As a result, the practices and guidance should be adapted to each specific context,

ideally in partnership with well-informed local actors, such as representatives from local organisations for persons with disabilities.

Bezug: <https://alliancecpha.org/en/protection-children-disabilities-within-humanitarian-contexts>

*Shelby K. Flanagan/Julia J.
Serman/Joseph R. Merighi/
Rachael Batty*

**Bridging the Gap,
How Interprofessional
Collaboration Can Support
Emergency Preparedness
for Children with Disabilities
and Their Families: An
Exploratory Qualitative
Study**

Children with disabilities and their families are at higher risk during emergencies and disasters, which is often attributed to the lack of disability inclusion in emergency response as well as disparities in preparedness. This disparity speaks to a need for emergency preparedness that centres children with disabilities and their families. The purpose of this study was to elicit the perspectives of health professionals (nurses, occupational therapists, social workers), disability advocates, and public safety personnel (e.g., fire fighters, police officers, emergency management administrators) on what would enable these types of professionals to support family-centred emergency preparedness for families who care for children with disabilities. One goal of the research is to provide recommendations for practice and policy to improve safety outcomes for children with disabilities and their families in emergency situations. The findings have implications for the importance of interprofessional collaboration in supporting family-centred emergency preparedness for families of children with disabilities. Stronger interprofessional networks would help overcome many of the barriers identified by participants, and advocacy groups appear

to be well-positioned to bridge the gap between these professionals and their areas of expertise.

Bezug: <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-023-15580-4>

*International Disability Alliance
(IDA)*

**The Situation of Persons
with Disabilities in the
Context of the War of
Aggression by Russia against
Ukraine**

This report documents the many violations of human rights and humanitarian law occurring in Ukraine and is based on interviews with persons with disabilities and representatives of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs). The human rights violations are all too common in conflict-settings across the world and highlight the need for strengthened protection of persons with disabilities at all phases of armed conflict, in accordance with Article 11 of the CRPD and UN Security Council resolution 2475. This report focuses on the voices of persons with disabilities themselves, through extensive personal testimony from persons with disabilities and some of their representative organisations with the aim of encouraging more disability-inclusive rights protection and humanitarian response. The critical role of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in the context of armed conflict is highlighted throughout.

Bezug: https://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/sites/default/files/ida_ukraine_report.pdf

Disability Rights International

**Families Find a Way: Children
with Disabilities in War-Torn
Ukraine**

This report highlights the conditions of children with disabilities and their families living in the midst of a war. Disability Rights International (DRI) consulted more than 500

families living in Ukraine on what they are experiencing during the war and what they need. In interviews with DRI staff, parents lay out all the difficult challenges and barriers they face. The report notes that the war has worsened the widespread problems and barriers families have already faced before. These interviews provide a blueprint of the change that must occur – by governments, donors, policy-makers, caregivers, and communities during the war and recovery process.

Bezug: <https://www.driadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/Families-Find-a-Way-1.pdf>

Amnesty International
**“I Used to Have a Home”:
 Older People’s Experience
 of War, Displacement, And
 Access to Housing in Ukraine**

Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, which has been marked by a flagrant disregard for civilian life, has had a devastating impact on older people. This report shows how older people have made up a disproportionate number of civilian deaths and injuries. It also shows how intersecting challenges such as disability, poverty and age discrimination place older people in displacement at higher risk, particularly with regards to accessing housing. Older people stay behind in damaged homes without roofs or windows, and thousands have been placed in state institutions, which can lead to their isolation, neglect and abuse.

Bezug: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur50/6250/2022/en/>

Jan Šiška/Md. Ahsan Habib
**Disability in South Asia:
 Historical Understanding
 through Family, Religion,
 and Support Structure**

This conceptual paper explores some aspects of social and cultural diversity of South Asia with particular attention given to traditions related to family, society, religions, and disability. Families’ attitudes towards disabilities

are associated with families’ cultural meanings of disability, preparation for dealing with disability and coping strategies. And religious understanding of disability as causal factor of karma, punishment or god’s anger in text and practice influences attitudes towards persons with disabilities and interventions. These dichotomised differences between disability policy initiatives and actual practices need to be revised and to reclaim regional disability history for better understating disability culturally same as socially.

Bezug: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/370231496_Disability_in_South_Asia_Historical_understanding_through_family_religion_and_support_structure

Michelle Lapierre
**Disability and Latin
 American Indigenous
 Peoples**

Disability among Latin American indigenous peoples is frequent and has particular characteristics. On the one hand, people understand and experience disability from their own worldview and cultural practices, but on the other hand, these cultural characteristics coexist with the reality of a disability produced by colonialism, colonisation and forced assimilation into the states. Additionally, the socio-economic conditions in which indigenous peoples live, as well as the political violence to which they are subjected, create a complex panorama that challenges disability studies to dialogue with other philosophies. Decoloniality, interculturality, epistemologies of the South, and indigenous thought can be approaches that discuss and problematise the study of disability in indigenous cultures from a more just and situated perspective.

Bezug: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/09687599.2023.2192381?needAccess=true&role=button>

*Minority Rights Group
 International*

**The Situation of Black
 People with Disabilities in
 Brazil**

This report considers the situation of black persons with disabilities in Brazil. In particular, the authors focus on the historical context, relevant law and policy, and a variety of issues faced by such persons. These include vulnerability to violence, increased likelihood of incarceration, inaccessible facilities, experiences of racism and ableism, barriers to employment, access to social services and security, and a lacking care policy. The report argues for the need to situate the present situation within Brazil’s historical context, specifically slavery and colonialism. It emphasises the need for more robust data with respect to black persons with disabilities. The authors call for recognition of intersectional discrimination by the relevant bodies at every level and recommend more effective policy to ensure the livelihoods of the affected groups are improved.

Bezug: https://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/MRG_Brief_Brazil_ENG.pdf

Veranstaltungen/Events

10.10. – 12.10.2023

M-Enabling Summit, Washington D.C., USA

Information: <https://m-enabling.com/>

Kontakt: fcesabianchi@g3ict.org

25. – 26.10.2023

aidex 2023 – The Global Humanitarian Aid Event, Geneva, Switzerland

Information: https://www.aid-expo.com/?utm_campaign=153501_2023%20-%20AidEx%20Launch%202023&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Aidex%20Geneva%20Limited&dm_i=-7JM7,3AFX,12VQIC,CA6P,1

7JM7,3AFX,12VQIC,CA6P,1

Kontakt: nicholas.rutherford@aid-expo.com

09.11. – 10.11.2023

8th World Disability and Rehabilitation Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Information: <https://disabilityconference.co/>

Kontakt: secretariat@disabilityconference.co

30.11. – 01.12.2023

7th AfriNEAD Conference, Cape Town, South Africa/Online

Information: <https://blogs.sun.ac.za/afrinead/7th-afrinead-conference/>

Kontakt: afrinead@sun.ac.za

30.11. – 12.12.2023

UN Climate Change Conference, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Information: <https://unfccc.int/cop28>

Kontakt: bluezonepavilion@cop28.com

Schwerpunktthemen kommender Ausgaben der Zeitschrift Focal Topics of Upcoming Issues

3/2023:

Digitale Teilhabe

[Digital Inclusion](#)

1/2024:

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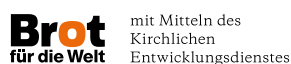
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