

## Meeting Minutes

### LSDS Biweekly Coordination Meeting

Date: 22 March 2023

Location: ISCG Meeting Room

#### Agenda:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Sensitization session on IASC guidelines on age and disability inclusions
- 3) LSDS updates

**Participants** (in alphabetical order): AAB, Agrajattra, Arannayk Foundation, BBC Media Action, Caritas, CBM Global (Representing ADWG), CNRS, CWW, CORAID, DRC, ESDO, FAO, FIVDB, HelpAge International, Helvetas Bangladesh, ILO, IOM, ISCG, Mukti Cox's Bazar, NGOF, NRC, OXFAM, Prottiyashi, Prantic, PIB, RDRS, Shushilan, SHED, SCI, UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, World Vision Bangladesh.

#### 2) Sensitization session on IASC guidelines on age and disability inclusions

LSDS arranged a sensitization session with **Age & Disability Working Group (ADWG)** on *IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action* for the partners. The key discussion points of the session are given below:

- The Guidelines set out essential actions that humanitarian actors must take to effectively identify and respond to the needs and rights of persons with disabilities who are most at risk of being left behind in humanitarian settings. The 2030 Agenda affirms that no one should be left behind and that those who are furthest behind should be supported first.
- The IASC Guidelines are specific to Persons with Disabilities and build on existing, more general standards and guidelines such as: Sphere Handbook, Core Humanitarian Standard and Humanitarian Inclusion Standards for Older People and People with Disabilities.
- The four objectives of the Guidelines are:
  1. **Guidance:** To provide practical guidance on including persons with disabilities in humanitarian programming and coordination.
  2. **Capacity:** To increase capacity among humanitarian stakeholders to develop and implement quality programs that are inclusive of persons with disabilities.
  3. **Accountability:** To describe the roles and responsibilities of humanitarian stakeholders to include persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.
  4. **Participation:** To increase and improve the participation of persons with disabilities and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) in preparedness, response, and recovery.
- The guidelines are very important, as the persons with disabilities are estimated 15% of the world's population, and in humanitarian context, they may form a much higher percentage.

## **Further points of discussion**

### **The twin- track approach:**

The twin- track approach combines the inclusive mainstream programs with targeted interventions for Persons with disabilities.

- a) Mainstreaming humanitarian programs and interventions, designed for whole population need to include persons with disabilities.
  - Information should be provided in multiple accessible formats (oral, sign, video, easy to understand language)
  - Distribution centres should be in easily reachable/accessible locations.
- b) Humanitarian programs need to address the specific requirements of persons with disabilities:
  - Ensure availability of assistive devices;
  - Transport allowance for the persons with disabilities;
  - Provide porter support for food and non-food items to persons with disabilities.

### **Must do actions:**

#### **Promote meaningful participation for Persons with disabilities**

- a) Persons with disabilities should be part of decision-making process. Enable persons with disabilities to participate in all processes that assess, plan, design, implement and monitor humanitarian program.
- b) Recruitment of Persons with disabilities in humanitarian organizations.
- c) Collaboration with OPDs when develop strategies for Persons with disabilities.

#### **Remove barriers**

- a) Identify all attitudinal, environmental, and institutional barriers that prevent Persons with disabilities from accessing humanitarian aid.
- b) Take appropriate measures to remove barriers and to promote enablers, for ensuring services to persons with disabilities.

#### **Empower persons with disabilities; support them to develop their capacities**

- a) Develop the capacities of persons with disabilities and OPDs in the field of humanitarian action and equip them with knowledge and skills.
- b) Build the capacity of humanitarian workers and assist them to design, implement and monitor inclusive humanitarian programs.

#### **Disaggregate data for monitoring inclusion**

- a) Where there is no data available, humanitarian actors in partnership with OPDs should collect data on sex, age and disability using a variety of tools like **Washington Group Short Set of Disability Questions (WGSSDQ)**.
- b) Use data on disability to monitor equal access, design and implement inclusive programs.

#### **HelpAge International engagement with Persons with disabilities:**

- LSDS partner HelpAge International is implementing project with WFP funding, where all the beneficiaries are persons with disabilities.

- They are identifying the beneficiaries using the WGSSDQ and later screening them. The beneficiaries are given assistive device upon need assessment.
- Beneficiaries are choosing their own trade and some of the trades are producing bamboo handicrafts, Nakshikatha and fishing net making.
- The beneficiaries are using their own products and/or selling them to the neighbors.
- HelpAge International will undertake another assessment of persons with disabilities this year and from April 2023 they will implement skills development project.

**Next course of action:**

ADWG is providing training for different sectors and their partners on how to include persons with disabilities in their respective programming. They will collaborate with LSDS on capacity building for LSDS partners.

**3) LSDS update:**

- Partners are requested to inform LSDS (outside the regular 3W/5W data collection) on any changes in their programming, funding opportunities or cuts, and implementation planning. It will help guiding the Sector and setting future priorities, reporting against the JRP, operational plan and other reporting requirements, as well as implementing the Principles of Rationalization.
- LSDS has circulated the template to collect information on partners' volunteer engagement in sectors other than LSDS. This information will help the Sector build synergies amongst stakeholder efforts and initiatives across all Sectors.
- LSDS will soon reach out to partners launching an exercise which will focus on collecting and agreeing on minimum basic competencies related to vocations/occupations and life skills with the final goal of having a harmonized approach across all Sectors where all partners follow the defined skill level or category, to ensure smooth and efficient implementation of the Skills Framework and Volunteer Guidance.
- WASH sector is collecting info on contingency stocks for MHM kits. From LSDS partners: UNHCR (5,000), Oxfam (3,500) and UN Women Implementing Partner Action Aid Bangladesh (3,000); total 11,500 MHM kits available.
- Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the U.S. State Department has launched FY 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity for NGO Programs Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Thailand, Bangladesh, and India. LSDS will circulate link to partners who are interested to apply. The deadline of the application is 17 April, however, partners are encouraged to apply well ahead to minimize the risk of last minute technical difficulties, bearing in mind the time difference between Bangladesh and BPRM help desk.

**Upcoming meetings:**

- 1) LSDS biweekly coordination meeting, 5 April, 13:30-15:00, at ISCG conference room.
- 2) LSDS meeting with camp focal, 9 April, TBC.
- 3) LSDS – SAG meeting, 27 April, TBC.

**Important Presentation/links:**

- 1) Presentation on *IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action*
- 2) Link to [FY 2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity for NGO Programs Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Thailand, Bangladesh, and India - U.S. Department of State](#)