



Inclusion Roundtable Discussion: *Ensuring Age, Gender, Disability and Diversity in Preventive and Responsive Actions* at the Global Protection Forum 2023

Monday 30th October, 14:00 – 15:30 CET

Executive Summary

The inclusion roundtable discussion at the Global Protection Forum addressed this year's chosen theme of, 'In the Hour of Need: Advancing Prevention and Proactive Protection.' The session focused on promoting an Age, Gender, Disability, and Diversity (AGD) approach in humanitarian contexts to ensure inclusive and effective protection services as a crucial cross-cutting theme. The discussion featured panelists sharing experiences, challenges, and best practices from their respective organizations and geographic contexts.

The 90-minute roundtable, attended by 469 participants, featured opening remarks from the Protection Sector in Syria, speakers from Humanity & Inclusion, UN Women's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, CARE Afghanistan, LIDOSOM Somalia, HelpAge, the Inclusive Friend Association in Nigeria and closing remarks from the Inclusion Ambassador Program in Syria.

This report outlines the key insights, feedback, and recommendations from the session. In addition, the session recordings in English, Arabic and French are available [here](#).

Key Messages

- Participants appreciated the emphasis on the AGD approach, recognizing it as a key component for fair and equal protection.
- The understanding that equality involves respecting diversity and promoting equal opportunities received positive feedback.
- The importance of gender analysis for evidence-based decision-making and ensuring accountability in humanitarian actions was well-received and appreciated by audience who request further sessions to discuss these elements.
- The use of rapid gender analysis tools in addressing the specific vulnerabilities of women, girls, and gender diverse individuals in crises, particularly in the Asia Pacific region, was key element of the discussion.
- CARE Afghanistan's focus on gender-responsive programming in the context of bans on women aid workers was praised, highlighting the relevance of minimum standards and tools for HR practices.
- LIDOSOM's intervention in South and Central Somalia, addressing critical gaps in the protection of persons with disabilities, was recognized for its innovative approaches and emphasis on empowerment and participation.

- The firsthand testimonies shared by Inclusive Friends Association provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities during violent conflicts.
- HelpAge's focus on the intersectionality of age, gender, and disability, and the need to ensure the inclusion of older people in emergency responses, was acknowledged as addressing a significant gap.

Next Steps and Recommendations

1. National Action Plans:

- Developing a national action plan such as in Syria in line with available resources, identifying technical needs, and advocating for increased funding is recommended to scale up disability inclusion at national level.

2. Increasing Awareness and Empowerment of women with disabilities:

- Raising awareness in society including humanitarian actors' teams about the rights of women and girls with disabilities and empowering them through appropriate work are crucial recommendations from the panelists.

3. Reporting Mechanisms:

- Ensuring safe and confidential reporting channels for women and girls with disabilities to report abuse is a responsibility of all humanitarian actors to mitigate the risks they face before and after reporting.

4. Accountability and Protective Measures:

- Empowering women with disabilities involve not only providing jobs but also facilitating support services and enhancing accountability for survivors of violence.

5. Accessible communication and different format of communication is required to ensure access for all people to such events.

6. Creating learning space at global level, using practical examples, and sharing experience was highly recommended from audience.

Conclusion

The inclusion roundtable discussion successfully highlighted the importance of the AGD approach in humanitarian protection efforts. The positive feedback and recommendations from the session underscore the need for ongoing commitment and collaborative efforts to address the unique challenges faced by diverse and vulnerable communities in times of crises. The outlined next steps provide a roadmap for advancing inclusion, protection, and proactive measures in humanitarian responses.