



The Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Persons with Disabilities



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Removing barriers, making society inclusive and accessible: impact of the COVID-19 crisis on persons with disabilities and “building back better” toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable world.

Persons with disabilities face the same risk from the COVID-19 crisis and its impact as the rest of the population, but the danger experienced by those with disabilities is compounded by many other factors, such as pre-existing health conditions, inaccessibility to health care and other essential services, social protection and income security, mental health services, and communication technologies. In addition, intersecting forms of discrimination further worsened the situation of persons with disabilities due to gender and other status, including as migrants, refugees, or from racial, ethnic or religious minorities and subjected them to even more hardships and unequal treatment. In other words, disability and structural inequalities, which characterized societies before the crisis, are being exacerbated by the multifaceted impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

Disability-inclusive local, national and global responses require cooperation, investment and direct support from all stakeholders, including governments, the UN System, humanitarian actors, civil society, and representative organizations of persons with disabilities, as well as the private sector.

This event brings together representatives from these key stakeholder groups to discuss how new and pre-existing barriers endangered persons with disabilities and what we can learn from this unprecedented crisis to build back better toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable world.

This webinar is co-organized by UNITAR and the United Nations Secretariat under the auspices of the Government of Ecuador and its Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. UNITAR also appreciates the support provided by G3ict, the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs and the University of Tokyo KOMEX.

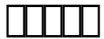


This virtual roundtable aims to bring together international experts to discuss lessons learned about responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and building back better.



At the end of this virtual roundtable, participants will be able to:

- define disability-inclusive local, national and global responses
- describe what “building back better” toward an inclusive, accessible and sustainable world means



The virtual roundtable consists of a two-hour panel discussion covering the following topics:

- 1) Normative Frameworks on Disability Inclusion in Emergency Settings and Building Back Better: From the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to the SDGs
- 2) Promoting Accessibility in the Digital Age toward an inclusive and accessible post COVID-19 World
- 3) Inclusion of women and girls with disabilities in the COVID-19 response and recovery
- 4) Overview on why COVID-19 particularly affects persons with disabilities
- 5) Including marginalized populations in health care systems during COVID-19
- 6) Taking action on the recommendations (SG policy brief): inclusion of the rights, well-being and perspectives of persons with disabilities in the COVID-19 response, recovery and building back better



Participation is open to government officials, diplomats, staff of international organizations, development practitioners, faculty members, and administrators of educational institutions.