



Health: There should be stringent measures in place to facilitate the timely access to health services for persons with disabilities such as transportation to healthcare facilities, access to sign language interpretation in hospitals as well as the procurement of goods, medicines and services.

Make mental health interventions inclusive of persons with disabilities: Anxiety, lockdowns, isolation, and information consumption, loss of livelihoods and support systems due to the pandemic impact on mental health of all people, including persons with disabilities.

It is therefore important to mitigate the risk of discriminatory decisions in resource allocation that put people with disabilities at risk.

Plot 530, Bukoto-Kisasi Road, P.O Box 8567, Kampala, Uganda,
+256 700 540179, +256 414 540179

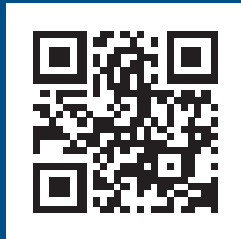
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Include **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES** in all **COVID-19 Response Interventions**



Disability Inclusive Covid-19 Response Interventions

NUDIPU is an indigenous umbrella NGO of Persons with Disabilities, formed in November 1987 which brings together all Persons under different Disability categories Uganda. NUDIPU envisions a Just and Fair Society where Persons with Disabilities live a Prosperous and Dignified life. NUDIPU exists to promote the equalisation of opportunities and active participation of Persons with Disabilities in mainstream development processes.

In order to attain a human rights-based approach to disability to ensure persons with disabilities are not left behind during COVID-19 putting into consideration the CRPD and the 2030 Agenda, the following are the disability-inclusive COVID-19 response and recovery interventions recommended by NUDIPU;

1. NUDIPU recognises the necessity to take proactive steps such as reasonable accommodation, to ensure that all persons with disabilities equally benefit from COVID-19 response measures in place.
2. In order to ensure a disability inclusive COVID-19 response, government should put in place accessible facilities, services and inclusive information to ensure that persons with disabilities are not left out.
3. Government should ensure accountability to affected populations, including persons with disabilities, and mechanisms needed to engage with communities to inform programming.
4. There should be close consultation and active involvement of people with disabilities and their representative organizations at all stages from planning and design to implementation and monitoring is key to ensuring inclusive response.
5. There is need to collect and avail disaggregated data on disability and COVID-19 to better understand the different ways in which people with disabilities have been affected during COVID19. This will be helpful in monitoring their inclusion in all phases of the response and recovery.

Nudipu on the Protection of People With Disabilities in Institutional Settings



Social protection and employment: Employment and working conditions need to be responsive to accessibility and inclusion of persons with disabilities in order to ensure continuity towards work amidst specific safety measures during the pandemic.

Government should expand mainstream and disability-targeted social protection and adapt delivery mechanisms to provide adequate relief and support to persons with disabilities and their families.



Education: Students with disabilities are likely to face greater barriers in accessing distance learning or rejoining classes once they are available, and face increased risk of dropping out of education during disruptions to learning. Education actors need to take measures to ensure continuity of learning for students with disabilities and return to school programmes.



Prevention of and response to violence: Persons with disabilities often face incidents of violence in situations of isolation, with women and girls with disabilities at even higher risk. Build capacity of services and communities to prevent disability related violence and raise awareness about violence against persons with disabilities, particularly women and girls.



Humanitarian contexts: Persons with disabilities in humanitarian and disaster contexts like the Rwenzori region and Bududa district have faced specific and heightened challenges during the COVID-19 outbreak due to floods hence need to; ensure disability-inclusive humanitarian assistance and disaster response.