

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

HEALTH

In an emergency, persons with disabilities are **more at risk of death**, severe injury, malnutrition, non-communicable diseases, respiratory conditions and infectious diseases.



WATER AND SANITATION

Slums lack infrastructure and basic services and **climate change will increase water stress for millions** of people. This poses an extra challenge for persons with disabilities who already face social, environmental and economic barriers in accessing water and sanitation.



DECENT HOUSING

Many persons with disabilities live in informal settlements, on fragile hillsides or flood-prone riverbanks where they are **highly vulnerable to extreme climate events and lack adequate infrastructure** to support them.



DECENT WORK

Inadequate access to education, discrimination and socioeconomic factors result in persons with disabilities being **30% more likely to be unemployed**. Climate change impacts further exacerbates barriers they face in the job market.



FOOD SECURITY

Rising temperatures will impact the availability and quality of food. **Shortages and malnutrition affect persons with disabilities to a greater extent** than the general population.



MOBILITY

Extreme weather events displaced 28 million people in 2018. In order to move, persons with disabilities may need assistive devices, adequate and accessible transportation and other services. The potential loss of personal support networks puts at risk their daily living and survival. Resettlement options are often limited and they may be forced to stay in places where they are exposed to climate change harms.



DID YOU KNOW?

Disaster risk reduction plans often exclude persons with disabilities. Information and warnings are not available in accessible means, modes and formats. Moreover, assistive devices are often lost or damaged during disasters and are typically not part of distributed relief aid. When they are, they may not be tailored to the individual and fail to provide the same level of functionality and independence.

Women and girls with disabilities are more at risk of violence, especially during situations of emergency. Shelters and other services for victims of violence are commonly not accessible or do not reach women and girls with disabilities. Owing to their dependence upon, and close relationship with the environment and its resources, indigenous small-scale farmers with disabilities are the most at risk of losing their livelihoods due to climate change.

Discriminatory immigration policies constitute another challenge that persons with disabilities and their families face with respect to migrating to other countries.