

Democratic Republic of Congo



EasyRead version



The **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights** is part of the United Nations. They make sure that everyone in the world is treated fairly and has their rights respected.



The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights asked the REGED (Réseau Gouvernance Economique et Démocratie), a civil society organization to write this report.

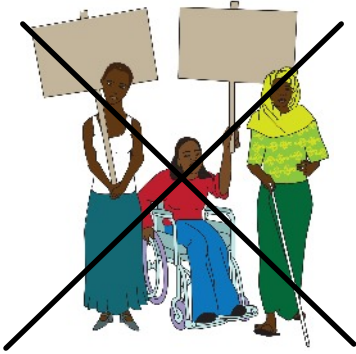


? This report is about what happened to people with disabilities in the Province of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo during COVID-19 up until February 2021.

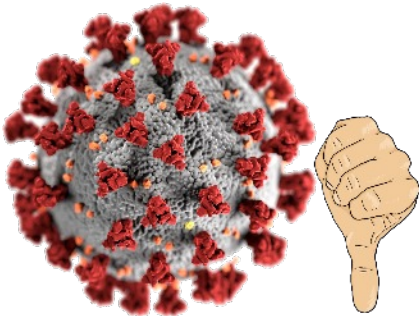


Life is already hard for many people with disabilities in the world.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo:



- most people with disabilities don't get to have their human rights respected



- COVID-19 has made this much worse.

What helped people with disabilities during the COVID-19 emergency?



Some people with disabilities got emergency support for food, water and shelter.

What happened to persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 emergency?



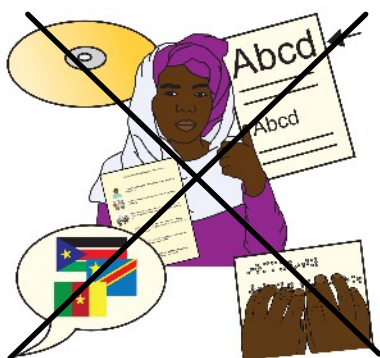
Involving people with disabilities

People with disabilities and organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) were not asked what they needed and how to help people with disabilities during the COVID-19 emergency.

Emergency plans didn't include people with disabilities:



- free testing was not always accessible for people with physical disabilities

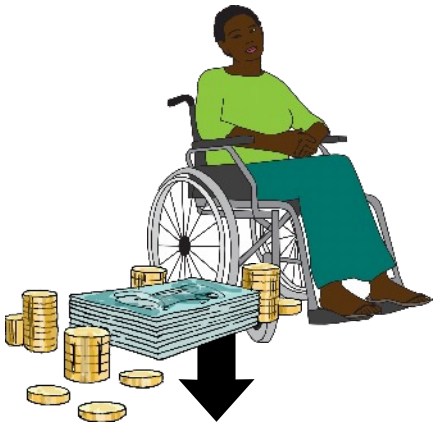


- information about staying safe from COVID-19 was not accessible.

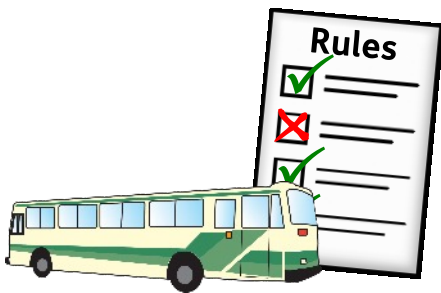


OPDs try hard to say what people with disabilities need. But it is difficult to be listened to.

Money and jobs



Many people with disabilities got less money from their jobs during the COVID-19 emergency.



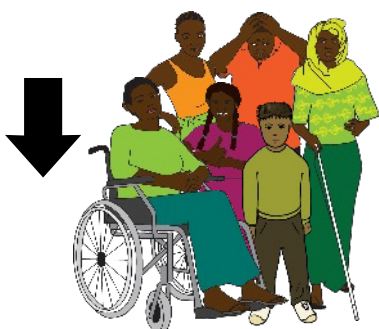
Rules about travel and being in the community made it hard for people with disability to get money.



Some people with disabilities got some food and things they needed from the government.



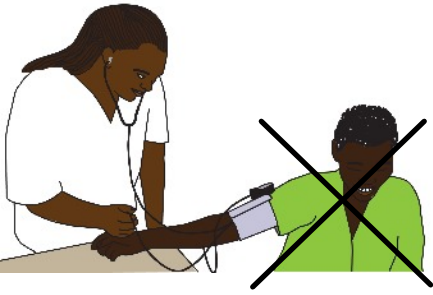
More people got food and things they needed from civil society.



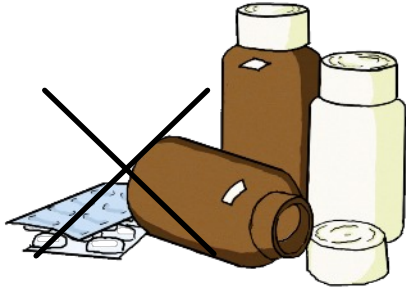
But not many people got help.

Health

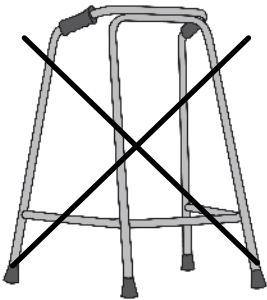
During the COVID-19 emergency people with disabilities found it hard to get:



- health checks



- medicines they needed



- aides like walking frames



People with albinism found it very hard to get the things they needed to stay well.



Food and aid

Other countries and international donors gave the DRC money for COVID-19 emergency projects to help people.



We checked 31 of the projects.



Only 1 of the projects deliberately helped people with disabilities.

What we think should happen in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The Government should:

Make sure in emergencies like COVID-19 people with disabilities:



- are included in the plans to keep safe
- are treated fairly
- can get tested in the community
- get information in accessible ways like Easy Read and sign language.



Make sure people with disabilities:

- can get health checks
- are able to travel to get health checks during emergencies like COVID-19.



After COVID-19:



- make plans to help people with disabilities
- make it easier for OPDs to be a part of making the plans
- ask people with disabilities and OPDS what should be in the plans
- think about what they say to help make the plans



Make sure that money from other countries and international donors to help:

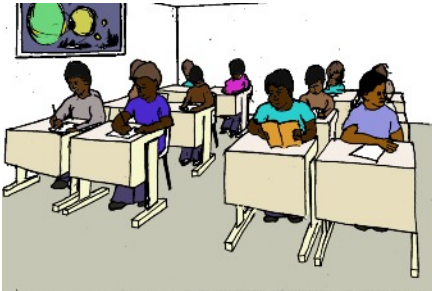


- also helps people with disabilities in a fair way
- doesn't harm the rights of people with disabilities
- checks if people with disabilities got included.

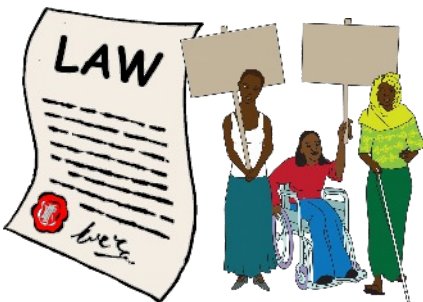




Find ways to help everyone learn about respecting people with disabilities.



Make plans to help people with disability learn at schools.



Make laws about respecting the rights of people with disabilities.



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