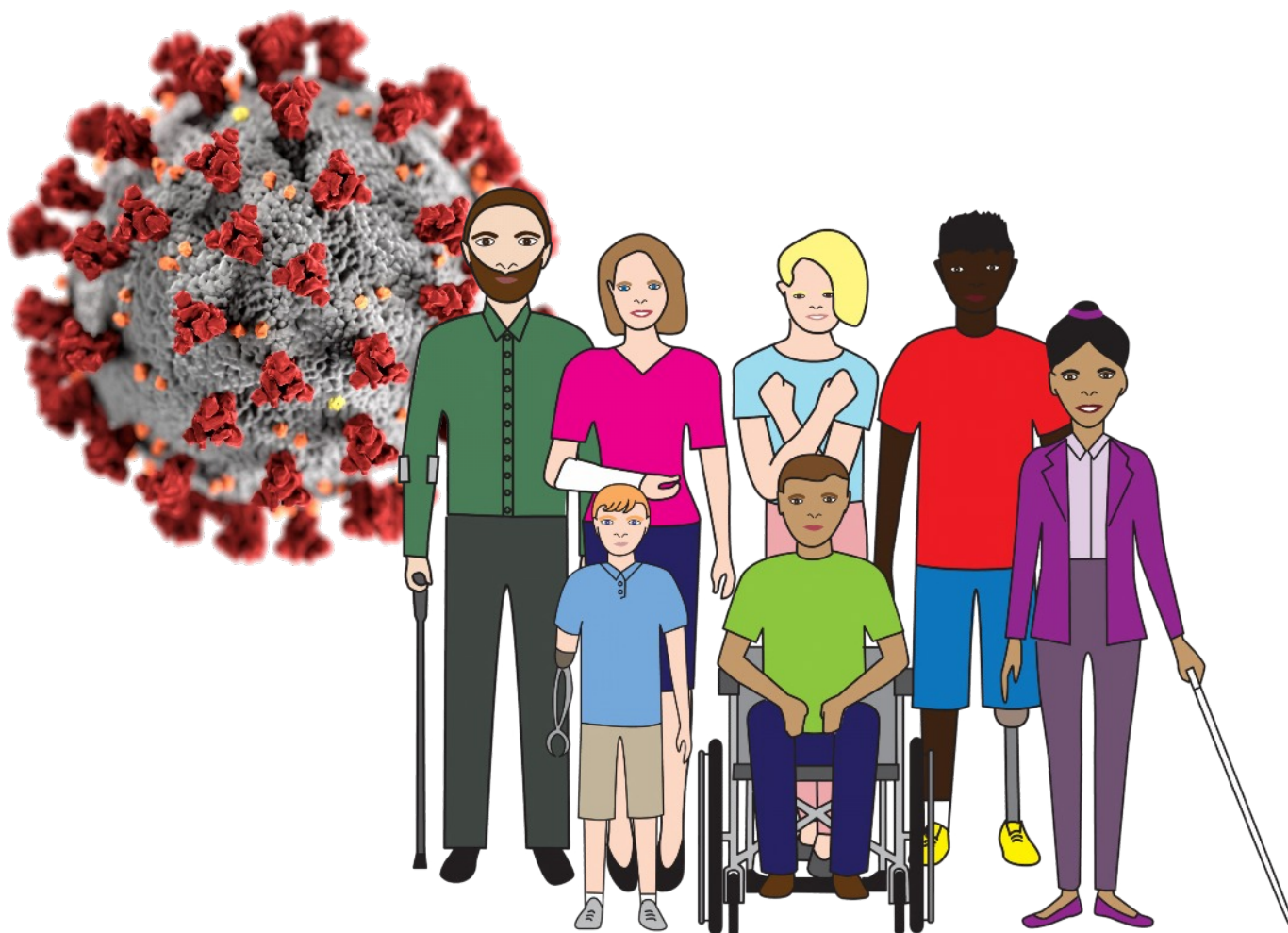


# The effect Covid-19 has had on persons with disabilities



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 independent people in different countries to write reports.



The reports were about what happened to people with disabilities during COVID-19.

This report is about:



- the same problems that happened in many different countries during COVID-19



- how countries can do better to make sure people with disabilities are included in plans for emergencies like COVID-19



- how countries can do better to make sure people with disabilities are treated fairly and have their rights respected after COVID-19.

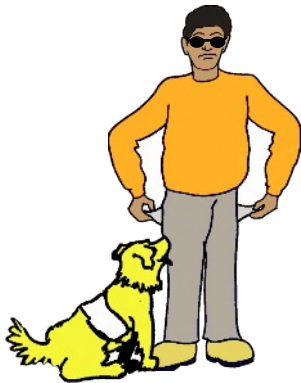


Life is already hard for many people with disabilities in the world:

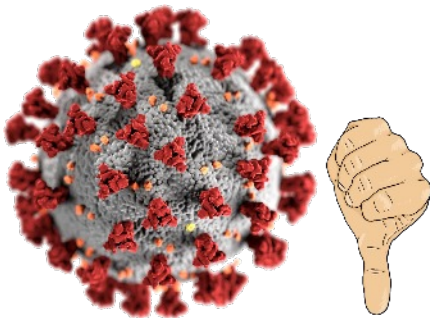
- the rights of people with disabilities are not always respected



- people with disabilities don't always get treated fairly



- many people with disabilities have very little money to buy the things they need



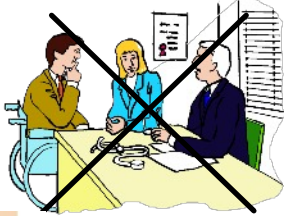
- COVID-19 has made this much worse.

# Health Care



Counties have not done a good job with helping people with disabilities during the COVID-19 emergency.

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



- to go to the doctors



- to access buildings like hospitals and doctors surgeries



- to get the medicines they needed



- to get accessible information about health care and staying safe from COVID-19.



Lots of people with disabilities:

- were treated like their life was not as important as other peoples by hospitals and health services.

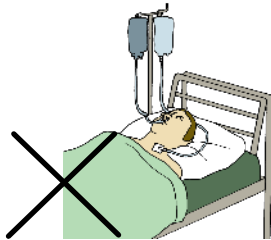
During COVID-19 people with disabilities had a bigger risk of getting COVID-19 and dying because:



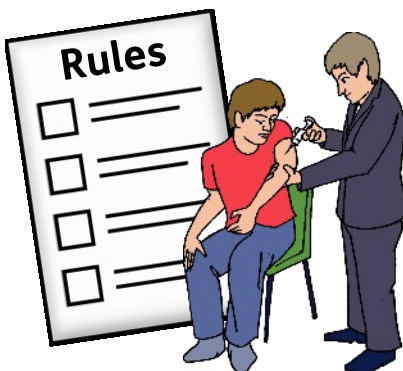
- they live in institutions like care homes, psychiatric units and orphanages



- they have more close contact with other people, including personal assistance

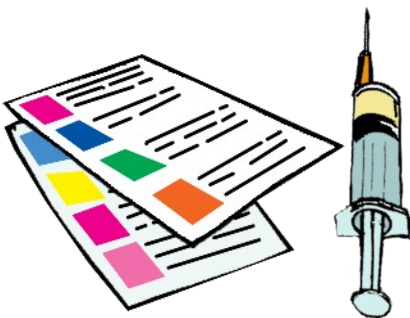


- they found it hard to get treatment if they caught COVID-19



**What we think countries should do about health and staying well now:**

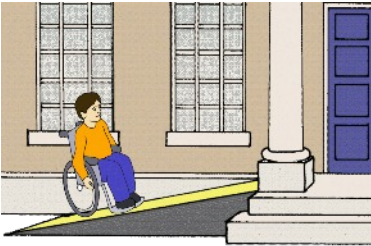
Make it a rule that people with disabilities get the COVID-19 vaccination quickly.



Make sure information about the vaccination is accessible.



Have free COVID-19 testing for people with disabilities.



Make sure places to get tested can be physically accessed

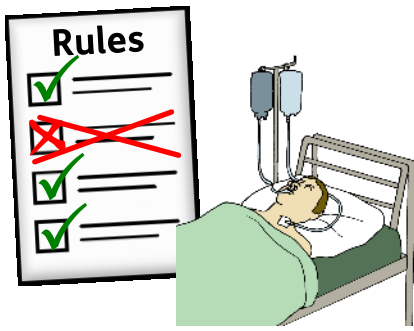


Make sure people with disabilities are supported to understand the test result.



Make sure people with disabilities:

- can get health checks
- can get the medicines they need
- are able to get health checks during emergencies like COVID-19.



Make sure unfair rules about getting COVID-19 treatments are stopped.

## What we think countries should do about health and staying well after COVID-19:

Countries still need to teach people to:



- understand people with disabilities can live very healthy and happy lives like everyone else



- respect the rights of people with disabilities



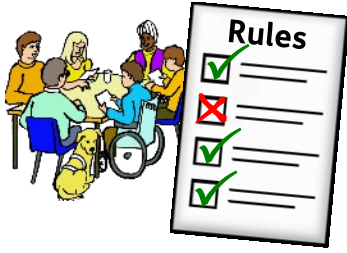
- treat people with disabilities as people first.

We need to make sure public hospitals and other services:

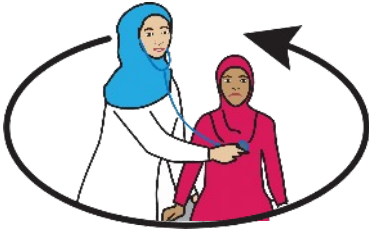


- make sure they respect the rights of people with disabilities to have fair access to health care





- get help from organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to make rules about health care

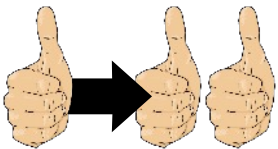


- make sure getting health care and treatment is fair for everyone.



Countries need to collect and share data about people with disabilities and health plans to:

- find problems
- try to fix problems.



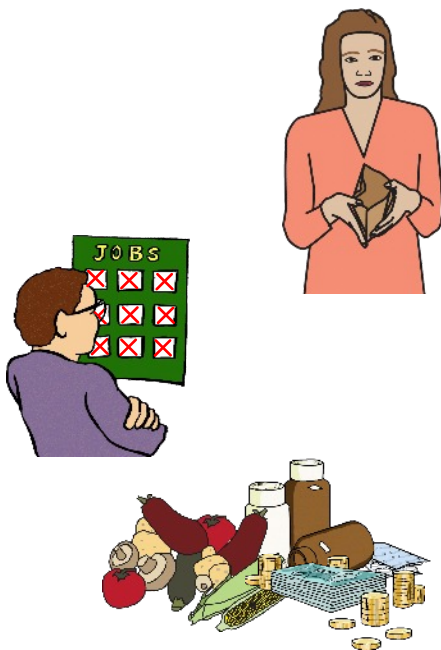
When new rules about health care are made:

- ask OPD's what should be in the rules
- think about what they say to help make the rules



# Money and jobs

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Some people with disabilities:

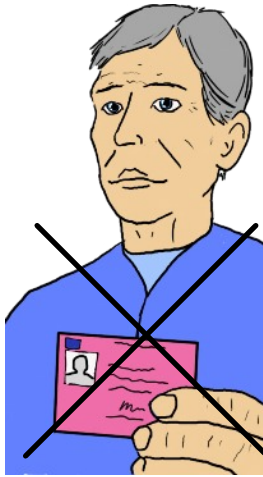
- found it harder to get money
- lost their jobs
- had to pay more for things like medicine and food.



In some countries people with disabilities got Government social protection money to help them during COVID-19

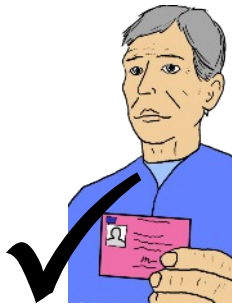


In some countries people with disabilities could keep using their old disability card to keep getting support.



But many people with disabilities don't have disability cards. They are hard to get. People with disabilities that didn't have a disability card found it very hard to get emergency COVID-19 support.

### What we think countries should do about money and jobs right now:



Make sure people with disabilities:

- can keep using their old disability cards
- can keep getting social protection support.

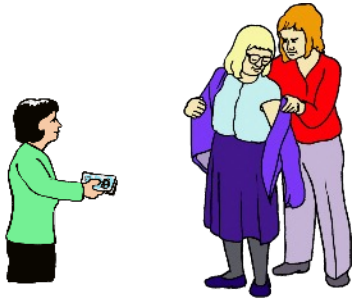


Make sure money from the Government to help people with disabilities:



- is available to people with any type of job during emergencies like COVID-19
- pays for all the important things they need like medicines and food





- pays for support workers.

## What we think countries should do about money and jobs after COVID-19:

Make sure people with disabilities have:



- food
- medicine
- other important things they need
- enough money for a equal standard of living



Make getting a disability certificate easier.



Make sure money to buy the special things people with disabilities need is always there.



Make plans to help people with disability:

- learn at school
- learn skills for jobs
- get jobs
- make sure the plans are fair for women and girls with disabilities.

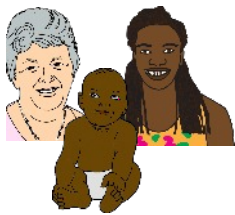
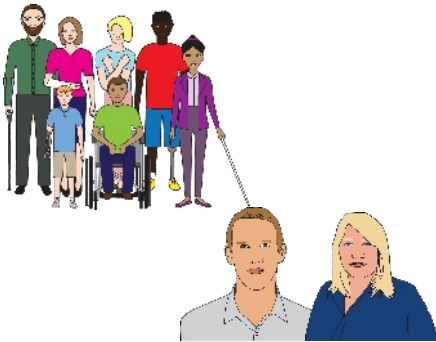
# Information

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Countries must collect and share information about how many people with disabilities:

- live in the country
- people's disability
- if they are men or women
- their age



In emergencies like COVID-19:

- how many people get sick
- how many people die.

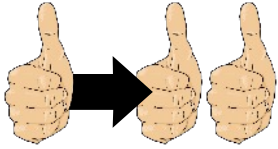


Collecting information about people with disability helps countries to check if the rights of people with disabilities are being respected.



Countries that collected and shared information:

- could find problems during COVID-19
- try to fix the problems.



### What we think countries should do about information right now:

Collect, keep and share information about how many people with disabilities:



- get sick from COVID-19
- die from COVID-19



- their type of disability



- are men or women



- their age



- if they live in an institution.

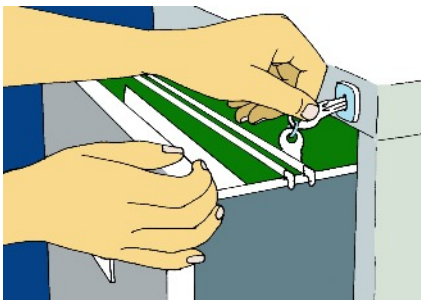


## What we think countries should do about information after COVID-19:

Find ways to collect, keep and share information about people with disabilities, including people who live in institutions.



Use the information to make sure people with disabilities are treated fairly during emergencies like COVID-19.



Make sure information is kept safely and is private.



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

- are included in the plans
- are treated fairly.





# Participation

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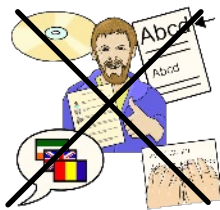
Around the world governments did not do a good job asking people with disabilities and OPDs about COVID-19 emergency plans:



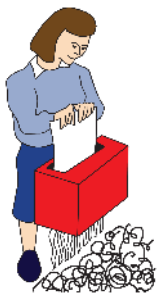
- people with disabilities were not treated fairly



- plans did not think about what people with disability needed

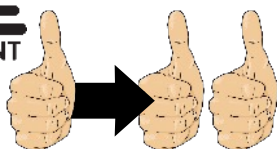


- information about keeping safe from COVID-19 was not always accessible



- information about people with disabilities was not kept or not helpful.

Organisations of people with disabilities (OPDs) in some countries like the UK and South Africa:



- helped governments to fix problems with COVID-19 treatments for people with disabilities



- helped make sure people could get accessible information to keep safe from COVID-19.

## What we think countries should do about participation now:

Make plans to help people with disabilities during emergencies like COVID-19 and after:



- ask people with disabilities and OPDs what should be in the plans
- think about what they say to help make the plans.



## What we think countries should do about participation after COVID-19:

Make rules about:



- asking people with disabilities and OPDs what should be in government plans and rules



- making sure people with disabilities who want to have a say can get the information they need and get to places to have their say

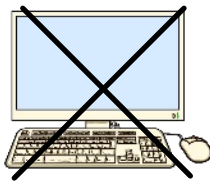


- thinking about what they say to help make the plans and rules.

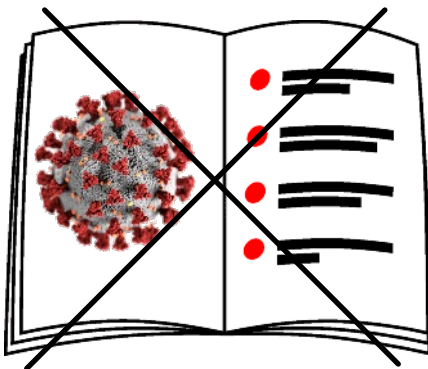
# Getting COVID-19 information

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Many people with disabilities missed out on important information about COVID-19:



- there was no accessible information
- the accessible information they needed was missing
- they did not have a computer to get accessible information.



In the Democratic Republic of Congo people had the wrong information about COVID-19 and people with albinism. They were treated very badly.

## What we think countries should do about COVID-19 information now:

Make sure people with disabilities have accessible information about COVID-19:



- give out information about how to stay healthy and safe in accessible ways like captioning, Easy Read and sign language.



## What we think countries should do about getting information after COVID-19:

Make it a rule that all information given out by the government is accessible:



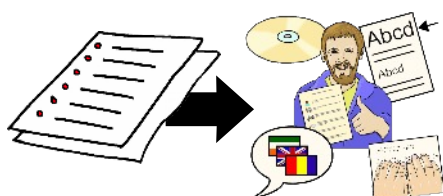
- give out information in accessible ways like captioning, Easy Read and sign language



- gets to people with disabilities



- gets to people living in remote areas.



Tell businesses to make their information accessible.

# People with disabilities living in institutions

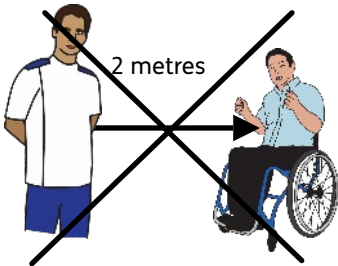


Many people in institutions got sick and many died of COVID-19.

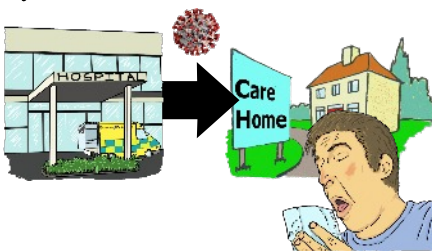
During the COVID-19 emergency people with disabilities in institutions:



- did not have enough gloves and masks to keep them safe



- were not able to have good social distance



- got sick when some people were sent from hospitals back to the institution when they had COVID-19.

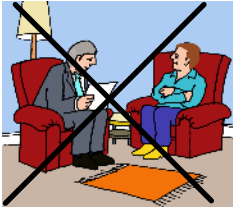
People with disabilities that live in institutions:



- were very alone



- could not leave



- could not have visits from other people
- did not have people coming to check if they were safe from abuse.

## What we think countries should do about people living in institutions now:

Make sure institutions:



- have gloves and masks to keep everyone safe



- make changes to keep everyone safe and healthy



- have free COVID-19 testing for residents and staff



- have emergency plans to move people out of institutions to keep people safe.

Make sure people in institutions are safe:



- people with disabilities and staff have a way to tell someone they trust about abuse
- people keep coming to check if they are safe from abuse.

Make sure people with disabilities living in institutions during lockdowns:



- can talk to family and friends
- have their rights protected.

Make sure institutions collect and keep information about how many people with disabilities:



- get sick from COVID-19
- die from COVID-19.



## What we think countries should do about people living in institutions after COVID-19:



Help people with disabilities:

- move out of institutions



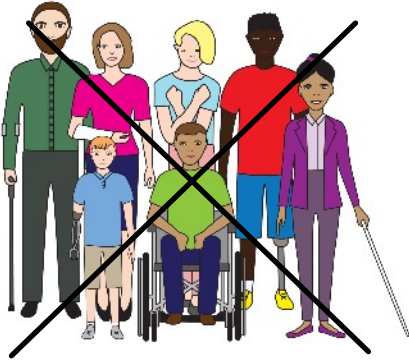
- live in the community.

# Include people with disabilities in aid programs

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Many countries and international donors gave poorer countries money for COVID-19 emergency projects to help people.



Many of these projects do not deliberately help people with disabilities.



We have information about how donors can check if people with disability are included in projects.

## Recommendations to donors

Check that money given to countries during the COVID-19 emergency:

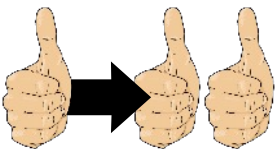


- helps people with disabilities in a fair way
- does not stop people with disabilities having their rights respected.



Collect information about people with disabilities supported in projects:

- to help find problems
- to try to fix problems.





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