**ITALY**

***Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation***

*Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights*

*Comitato Interministeriale per i Diritti Umani*

**ITALY’S CONTRIBUTION**

**TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE PROTECTION OF**

**INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS**

**WITH DISABILITIES**

**February 2020**

**ITALY’S REMARKS**

**Introduction**

Italian Authorities thank the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons

and want to provide the following information on the Italian protection of internally displaced persons with disabilities.

**2. Share reports about the experiences of IDPs with disabilities during the various phases of displacement and in different settings (eg. emergency/protracted displaced, urban/rural), including their support needs and forms of discrimination or violence experienced as relevant, and any information that includes a gender and intersectional analysis.**

Italy is an earthquake risk area and in the last years climate change has produced new climate events (inondations, storms, typhons, etc.) more frequently than before. In the last years three earthquakes (in L’Aquila, Abruzzo region, and in Emilia Romagna, Umbria and Lazio regions) and various inondations have produced thousands of IDPs. Among these persons some persons with disabilities are involved, but no detailed data are available. On the disability journalist portal in the internet (www.suoperando.it, www.disabili.com, [www.superabile.it](http://www.superabile.it)) it is possible to collect information on initiatives and concrete actions in favour of persons with disabilities.

**3. Describe the relevant national, regional and/or international legal and policy frameworks applicable to IDPs with disabilities, as well as achievements and challenges in their implementation.**

Italy approved various documents to attend persons with disabilities in situation of emergency: Legislative decree 2.1.2018 n.1, art. 18 indicates specific attention to persons with disabilities in planning intervention in emergency. The national fire department (*Corpo Nazionale Vigili del Fuoco*) in collaboration with the main associations of persons with disabilities in 2001 defined a guide to rescue persons with disabilities in emergency situation. The national civil protection has a specific web page named “Abili a proteggere” (able to protect, https://www.abiliaproteggere.net/attivita/osservatorio-disabilita-protezionecivile/ ) where the experiences in the field on disability in emergency are collected.

**4. Provide concrete examples of good practices and challenges in addressing the protection and support needs of IDPs with disabilities, providing them with inclusive and accessible humanitarian assistance during displacement and supporting the achievement of durable solutions.**

A manual on rescue of persons with the autism spectrum in emergency was produced by the fire department of Pordenone and Fondazione Bambini e Autismo ONLUS, (https://www.bambinieautismo.org/manuale\_del\_soccorritore.pdf). In some municipalities (Ascoli Piceno for example) a census of persons with disabilities has been developed to collect needs and to have information in case of emergency or disaster.

**5. Describe efforts undertaken to ensure the active coordination, participation and meaningful consultation with internally displaced persons with disabilities and their organisations in decisions affecting them during all phases of displacement. Information about the outcomes achieved and the remaining gaps would also be welcome.**

The fire department has built up a national body on emergency and disability (*Osservatorio sui temi della sicurezza e del soccorso alle persone con esigenze speciali*) involving various associations of persons with disabilities and families. The municipalities, the enterprises and public services must elaborate a plan of action in case of disaster, but only few plans include persons with disabilities.

**6. Describe how the support needs of IDPs with disabilities have been taken into account in relevant humanitarian and development planning, including to ensure the effective management and dissemination of accessible information at all stages.**

The Italian development cooperation edited in 2015, in collaboration with the Italian network on disability and development-RIDS, a Vademecum on humanitarian aids and disabilities (https://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2016/07/a\_01\_vademecum\_disabilita\_emergenza\_eng.pdf). The National and local civil protection have organized conferences and staff exercises on emergency and disability*.*

**7. Describe actions considered or planned for 2020 to provide IDPs with disabilities with inclusive and accessible humanitarian assistance during displacement, to promote durable solutions and to foster their active participation and meaningful consultation in decisions affecting them during all phases of displacement.**

A Ministerial decree is under discussion to define the guidelines to support the rights of persons with disabilities in case of intervention in emergency. This decree will include the rules to attend persons with disabilities in case of displacement.

**Conclusions**

Italian Authorities take this opportunity to reiterate their firm willingness to continue cooperating with all relevant UN Special Procedures, mechanisms and bodies.