

Persons with disabilities

- Persons with disabilities are at a much higher risk from COVID-19, and State responses need to include targeted measures to address them. Crisis response measures, health and social protection interventions must be accessible for all and should not discriminate against persons with disabilities.
- Physical distancing, self-isolation and other emergency measures, need to take account the needs of persons with disabilities who rely on support networks essential for their survival and some of whom may experience significant stress with confinement.
- States should put in place additional measures to guarantee the continuity of support networks for persons with disabilities throughout the crisis. When restrictions on movement impede existing family and social support networks, they should be replaced by other services.
- Ensure that decisions on the allocation of scarce resources (e.g. ventilators) are not based on pre-existing impairments, high support needs, quality of life assessments, or medical bias against persons with disabilities.
- States should release persons with disabilities from institutions, nursing homes, psychiatric and other facilities whenever possible, and take measures to ensure the protection of those who are in such facilities.
- Access to additional financial aid and social protection is crucial for persons with disabilities and their families as many depend on services that have been suspended, and may lack the resources to cover their basic needs.