



## **ANNEX: COUNTRY PROFILE KENYA**

**Gap Analysis on Disability Inclusive  
Humanitarian Action in Eastern Africa**

## **Kenya's Disability Rights Commitment and Disability Inclusive DRR Strategies**

In 2008, Kenya ratified the UN CRPD. In its 2015 concluding observations on the initial report of Kenya, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities welcomed the adoption of a contingency plan by the National Disaster Operations Centre that recognizes persons with disabilities as a particular group in disaster situations. However, According to the Committee's Concluding Observations from 2015, the Committee expressed concern about the lack of information on the situation of internally displaced persons and those living in refugee camps, as well as the lack of information on emergencies and disaster strategies in formats accessible to persons with disabilities. The Committee recommended that Kenya adopts a national plan to ensure the protection of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies and to ensure universal accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities at all stages and levels of all disaster risk reduction policies and their implementation. Additionally, Kenya was advised to provide information in modes, means, and formats of communication accessible to all persons with disabilities about early warning mechanisms in case of risk and humanitarian emergency, as well as to monitor the situation of persons with disabilities in refugee camps and internally displaced persons with disabilities and ensure they are entitled to access all services available, including accessible shelters, water and sanitation, education, and health<sup>1</sup>. Kenya was due to submit its second periodic report by June 2022.

### **Current humanitarian crisis**

The INFORM Country Risk Profile ranks for Kenya is at 17th place. The country has a score of 4 for hazard and exposure, with human-caused risk being more prominent. The country's highest natural hazard risk is for droughts, with a score of 6.9 out of 10. In terms of vulnerabilities, the country ranks 23rd, with a score of 5 for other vulnerable groups. The country also lacks coping capacity, with a score of 49<sup>2</sup>.

The Horn of Africa is experiencing severe drought, affecting millions of refugees and internally displaced people. The drought has led to high food prices and weakened people's ability to grow crops, raise livestock, and buy food. Conflict and insecurity are also intersecting with the drought emergency, leading to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Over 180,000 refugees have crossed borders from Somalia and South Sudan into drought-affected areas of Kenya, joining a significant existing refugee population. UNHCR has appealed for \$137 million to respond to the immediate needs of affected populations in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G15/223/37/PDF/G1522337.pdf?OpenElement>

<sup>2</sup> <https://drmhc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Risk/Country-Risk-Profile>

<sup>3</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/ethiopia/horn-africa-drought-situation-appeal-january-december-2023>

As of March 31, 2023, there are 588,724 refugees and asylum-seekers in Kenya, with 43.3% of them located in Turkana. The humanitarian situation in the region is impacted by political developments and the situations in the main refugee producing countries, such as Somalia and South Sudan. The majority of the refugees in Kenya are from Somalia (55.0%) and South Sudan (30.8%). The total funding for the Kenya refugee operation in 2022 was \$145,519,917, with a 44% funding gap of \$63,682,826<sup>4</sup>.

The Integrated Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Analysis for February to June 2023 shows a slight improvement in food insecurity severity in Kenya's Arid and Semi-Arid Lands areas. Counties like Turkana, Isiolo, Marsabit, and Mandera have transitioned from Emergency to Crisis phase due to the positive impact of rains on livelihoods. However, the situation is projected to deteriorate again from March to June 2023. Currently, approximately 4.4 million people in ASAL areas face high levels of acute food insecurity, with 774,000 in the Emergency phase. Factors such as below-average rainfall and conflicts contribute to food insecurity in ASAL counties. Turkana, Marsabit, Wajir, North Turkana, and North Horr are expected to reach Extremely Critical levels of acute malnutrition. The severity of food insecurity is anticipated to worsen in the coming months, affecting an estimated 5.4 million people with high levels of acute food insecurity and 1.2 million people in the Emergency phase. Urgent action is needed to address food gaps, protect livelihoods, and prevent and treat acute malnutrition according to the report.

### **Evidence and Data on persons with disabilities**

The 2019 census in Kenya indicates that 2.2%, equivalent to 0.9 million people, of the population live with some form of disability. While the microdata from the census has not yet been published, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics released preliminary reports in November 2019 and February 2020. These reports highlight a significant difference in disability prevalence compared to global estimates<sup>5</sup>.

The humanitarian response plan 2023 for Kenya is currently being prepared, with a focus on addressing the needs of the population in crisis. The plan will target a population of 6.4 million people in need, out of a total of 17.7 million individuals affected by the crisis. The financial resources required to support this response are currently being assessed and will be allocated accordingly to reach the targeted 4.3 million people<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/ken>

<sup>5</sup> [https://devinit.org/documents/727/Status-of-disability-in-Kenya\\_IF.pdf](https://devinit.org/documents/727/Status-of-disability-in-Kenya_IF.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>

<https://humanitarianaction.info/plan/1137#:~:text=Provide%20life%2Dsaving%20and%20life,drought%20through%20integrated%20humanitarian%20interventions.&text=Strengthen%20resilience%20of%20drought%2Daffected,humanitarian%20impacts%20of%20the%20drought.>

According to the 2022 Drought Response in Review<sup>7</sup>, there was no mentioning of persons with disabilities. However, the revised Flash Appeal for the Kenya Drought from October 2021 to October 2022<sup>8</sup>, which was released in May 2022, highlighted the need to target women and girls with disabilities. The GBV sub-sector aims to target over 204,000 people, including women and girls with disabilities, based on the severity of the drought in different counties. The appeal states that \$2,485,260 is required to achieve this target.

UNHCR's Horn of Africa Drought Situation Appeal January – December 2023 outlines plans to conduct vulnerability assessments to ensure that timely assistance is provided to persons with 'specific needs', including older persons, children, persons with disabilities, and persons with serious or chronic illnesses<sup>9</sup>. While there is currently no evidence of collected data about persons with disabilities, UNHCR's plan highlights the importance of ensuring that vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, receive the necessary assistance during the ongoing drought situation in the Horn of Africa.

The WFP Regional Drought Response Plan for the Horn of Africa (January – December 2023)<sup>10</sup> highlights that the drought and food insecurity have created additional protection concerns for vulnerable families, disproportionately affecting children, older people, women, people living with disabilities, and other disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

In the Kenyan WASH Sector, they develop a Drought Preparedness, Implementation, and Networking and Drought Response Plan with the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation and the interested WASH Partners. Currently, since there is no activated cluster, there are no HNOs and HRPs, neither initiatives to consult with OPDs in that regard.

World Vision has released a statement highlighting the importance of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) in WASH programs<sup>11</sup>. They have reached an impressive milestone in this regard, having improved sanitation facilities that are accessible to children with „limited mobility“ in 4,964 schools between 2017 and 2022.

Overall, it seems that disability-disaggregated data has not been collected and specific assessments have not been conducted to determine the challenges faced by persons with disabilities in protection, food security, and WASH response in a systematic manner. This is a concerning issue that needs to be addressed. Furthermore, it is worth noting that the Kenya Mobility Monitoring in Turkana County report does not include any reference to persons with disabilities.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/kenya-2022-drought-response-review#:~:text=Over%201.7%20million%20people%20received,with%20food%20and%20livelihood%20assistanc>  
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<sup>8</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/kenya-drought-flash-appeal-october-2021-october-2022-revised-may-2022>

<sup>9</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/attachments/05bd2ce1-97c9-4042-b607-ff59ca3c7133/The%20Horn%20of%20Africa%20Drought%20Situation%20Appeal%202023.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.wfp.org/publications/regional-drought-response-plan-horn-africa-2023#:~:text=In%202023%2C%20WFP%20is%20urgently,Horn%20of%20Africa%20is%20deepening.>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.wvi.org/publications/capacity-statement/water-sanitation-and-hygiene/gesi-wash-capacity-statement>

## **Planning & Coordination related to disability inclusion**

This study analysed several questions related to disability inclusion in humanitarian action in Kenya. It focused on two main areas, such as (1) the extent to which disability inclusion is anchored in existing HRP, and (2) existing working groups or coordination mechanisms that could provide support and knowledge to all staff members regarding disability inclusion.

To begin with, it is worth noting the Kenya Flash Appeal was initiated in September 2021 and has been extended twice, with a requirement of \$250.5 million in 2022, of which \$180.7 million is urgently needed to address the escalating needs from April to October 2022. While the Flash Appeal has received full funding, critical sectors such as Health, Protection, and WASH have received less than 10% of the required amount, while others like Education have received no funding. The strategic objective 1 of the Flash Appeal for Kenya, revised in May 2022, aims to provide life-saving and life-sustaining assistance to the people most affected by drought through integrated humanitarian interventions. The objective emphasizes the commitment of all partners to prioritize immediate life-saving assistance for the most vulnerable people, including those with disabilities. The response will be implemented in a gender-, age-, disability- and conflict-sensitive manner, indicating a recognition of the unique challenges faced by persons with disabilities in times of crisis. Therefore, the commitment to a disability-sensitive response in the Flash Appeal for Kenya is a significant step towards ensuring that persons with disabilities are not left behind in the humanitarian response, however there are some limitations because disability is referenced only in health, protection, and child protection sectors, and it requires further mainstreaming.

With regards to WASH, sector partners integrate disability in accordance with its own organizational approaches and guidelines. The WASH Sector in Kenya operates under the leadership of the Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation and they set the direction for joint approaches for the Sector. There has not been any discussion of a joint disability inclusion approach for the 70 WASH Partners who are part of the Sector in Kenya.

The WASH Sector collects disability disaggregated data in its monthly 5W reporting form, but the sector does not implement programme targeting persons with disabilities. Instead, each partner involved in the sector's activities needs to be contacted separately to gather information on their respective disability inclusive initiatives. There has not been any WASH Sector assessment of challenges of persons with disabilities. However, several WASH Partners include information on this in their own assessments, e.g. UNICEF, IOM, UNHCR, Save the Children and other organisations.

The Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in WASH capacity statement<sup>12</sup> emphasizes the need for community engagement, advocacy, and training to address the remaining barriers in ensuring disability-inclusive WASH services. The statement also notes that providing disability-inclusive WASH services at schools can greatly benefit children with disabilities by enabling them to stay in school.

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<sup>12</sup> [https://reliefweb.int/attachments/a5d0b62b-8d20-4816-994f-42d01d65fca8/GESI-in-WASH-Capacity-statement\\_0.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/attachments/a5d0b62b-8d20-4816-994f-42d01d65fca8/GESI-in-WASH-Capacity-statement_0.pdf)

Based on the limited available evidence, it appears there are currently no existing working groups or coordination mechanisms that could provide support and knowledge to all staff members regarding disability inclusion. On the other hand, UNFPA has a dedicated disability focal point.

They have developed guidelines for mainstreaming disability issues into her programming areas. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has also supported inclusion of disability focused organizations in programming and allocated them resources to undertake disability responsive interventions in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and gender based violence, including in humanitarian settings. UNFPA has leveraged its voice on protection issues to highlight disability concerns in the media. UNFPA, as a part of protection sector, consults with disability inclusion focused organizations in the development of their response and advocates for the rights of persons with disabilities. For example, UNFPA collaborates with This-Ability Trust and Special Olympics to lead in mainstreaming disability interventions. UNFPA also works with other organizations such as the Kenya Red Cross Society for inclusion of disability components in humanitarian programmes.

The main challenges are the lack of reliable data and limited resources, which they address through technical assistance, policy documents, and training materials. They recommend generating evidence, engaging in strategic advocacy efforts, allocating resources, and collaborating with disability inclusion focused organizations to make humanitarian programs disability inclusive.

However, it should be noted that the UNHCR focal points at the regional level discussed the activities and strategies of various agencies and organizations in the context of regional protection and disability inclusion. The Bureau holds regional forums, including the Regional Protection Forum and the Regional GBV and Child Forum, to bring together agencies for advocacy, research, and tool development. The UNHCR has established a disability inclusion working group with UNICEF and UN Women to bring more partners and knowledge sharing on board.

For example, protection strategies are well-articulated in Somalia, with country protection teams and strategies in place. The overall protection strategy is integrated across clusters and includes guidelines for partners and training on mainstreaming. Tools have been developed, such as the WGP for food distribution and the use of cash to deliver assistance in hard-to-reach areas. Collaboration with the national disability commissions, where possible, and development plans should be used for advocacy. UNHCR has made commitments to strengthen partnerships, improve access to education and livelihoods opportunities for persons with disabilities, and ensure improved registration systems for identifying and protecting persons with disabilities. In this regard, UNHCR is approaching the issue of disability inclusion from a refugee-level organization, and they have recently initiated mapping of organizations in restricted areas of responsibility to ensure improved registration systems for identifying and protecting persons with disabilities. However, this is linked to funding, and there are still pending small-grants for capacity building. Efforts have been made to raise engagement and participation through bridge training and advocacy, but without a systematic policy from the top-down, mainstreaming is difficult.

## **Participation of Persons with Disabilities and their representative organisations**

Interviews with members of the national umbrella of OPDs, Consortium of Disabled Persons' Organizations in Kenya (CDPOK)<sup>13</sup> revealed that their organization acts as an umbrella group for five counties, ensuring coordination and providing guidance on how to best approach disability inclusion in humanitarian, and development context to much greater extent. They work closely with the Kenya Red Cross Society to develop capacity-building programs for member organizations and to mobilize and register persons with disabilities in affected areas.

Interviewees from the CDPOK stated that their organization has a limited mandate in the humanitarian system, primarily focused on cash transfers and provision of health care. They highlighted the challenges faced by OPDs to navigate the humanitarian system, and affected persons with disabilities in accessing humanitarian services. They emphasized the need for proper needs assessments and specialized support services. CDPOK emphasized the importance of smooth communication, increased engagement with humanitarian actors, and harmonized approaches to disability inclusion, something that currently lack, as they observe. They also emphasized the need for joint efforts in purchasing assistive devices and in conducting surveys to ensure effective targeting of persons with disabilities.

CDPOK members highlighted the gap in ensuring that targeted services reach persons with disabilities, especially those with psychosocial disabilities. They emphasized the importance of data for ensuring and enabling effective disability inclusion in humanitarian action and accountability. They also stressed the need for capacity development for OPDs to be in a position to effectively advocate for disability inclusion and to work with the government to champion their cause. They stressed the need for effective and targeted interventions backed by proper needs assessments and for capacity-building programs for OPDs to ensure their effective participation and advocacy in the humanitarian response.

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<sup>13</sup> <https://cdpok.or.ke/>

## **Disability Inclusion in Anticipatory Action: The Case of PACIDA's Community-led Preparedness Approach**

This section will highlight one case of how disability inclusion can be involved in a local manner in terms of preparedness for any emergency, with a focus on anticipatory action. Anticipatory action refers to the pre-emptive measures taken before an anticipated disaster to reduce its impact and improve response efficiency. This approach aims to enhance preparedness and build resilience among vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities, by involving them in decision-making and providing early warning systems.

Pastoralist Community Initiative and Development Assistance (PACIDA)<sup>14</sup> employs focus-based actions to help communities survive without rain by prioritizing livestock and ensuring that everything is done for their benefit.

Through participatory rural approaches and community-led initiatives, PACIDA involves the community in actions, models approaches from their own circumstances, and prepares in advance to avoid the negative effects of drought and food security risks. They aim to teach the community to become more resilient and work closely with the government and other groups to develop their strategies. They also prioritize inclusion of persons with disabilities, recognizing them as a vulnerable group and implementing a parallel approach to early warning and better response. It is mentioned that there are challenges in providing facilities and assistive devices for persons with disabilities in rural communities.

Moreover, the specialized centers and sign language interpreters are also located far from these areas. This makes it even more critical to have early warning and emergency planning in place. By involving persons with disabilities in the planning process, PACIDA can ensure that their insights and experiences are taken into consideration. This can include identifying safe evacuation routes, providing transportation, and ensuring that emergency shelters are accessible.

On a final note, PACIDA can work with local government authorities to provide training to emergency responders on how to effectively assist persons with disabilities in emergency situations, however the participation of persons with disabilities, which is currently lacking, should be ensured through this process. By focusing on early warning and emergency planning that is inclusive of persons with disabilities, PACIDA can help ensure that no one is left behind in times of crisis.

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<sup>14</sup> <http://pacida.org/>