



Inclusive Futures

Promoting disability inclusion



A report about how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected organisations that work for people with disabilities - FINDINGS



easy read



Easy Read Version of: Consequences of Exclusion: A Situation Report on Organisations of People with Disabilities and COVID-19 in Bangladesh, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe



Sometimes we need to use new or difficult words. These words are in bold and there is a list of what they mean at the end of the report.

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2. Who we are



We are Social Development Direct



We give advice to people working on **International Development** on how to include all people, such as women and people with disabilities

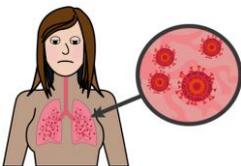


International Development supports people around the world who do not have enough access to the things they need



We work with a group of organisations to give advice and show evidence of how we can improve life for people with disabilities in countries around the world

3. About this report



Over the last year lots of people have become ill from a virus called **COVID-19**



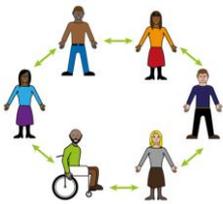
COVID-19 caused a **pandemic**. Lots of people became ill and lots of rules changed to stop it spreading.



We did **research** to find out how **COVID-19** has affected the work of organisations of people with disabilities



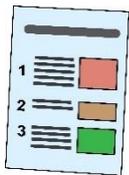
We also looked at how the work they were doing has changed



Organisations of people with disabilities work in countries around the world. They help people with disabilities to be included in their communities and live good lives



We spoke to 16 of these organisations in Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh



This report gives a summary of what was found out in our research



A separate Easy Read gives a summary of important things to think about based on what the research found out

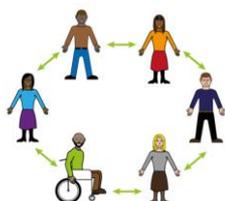
4. Background to the report



The **pandemic** has made it harder for people with disabilities to take part in regular activities in life



This has been even more difficult for women with disabilities and groups of people who have disabilities that are not thought about enough.



These impacts have changed the way **organisations of people with disabilities** work

5. Findings



The research found out 8 effects of COVID-19 on organisations of people with disability

Finding 1



At the beginning of the pandemic most people with disabilities and their organisations were not included when governments were deciding how to deal with the virus.



Organisations tried to talk to governments but people working in government did not talk to them.

Finding 2



Organisations did the government's job and helped people with disabilities when governments did not think about how to support people with disabilities.

This happened in different ways:

Accessible Information



Often, information about the virus and pandemic was not provided in a way that people with disabilities could access the information.



Governments did fix this after some time, but if they had asked organisations of people with disabilities first, the problem could have been avoided.

Social Protection



‘Social Protection’ is the things that governments give to people to make sure everyone has the same chances in life, such as money, food, healthcare and school.



Many people with disabilities could not access social protection during the pandemic.



Organisations of people with disabilities worked to make sure governments gave people with disabilities support, or sometimes organisations of people with disabilities gave the support.

Violence against women



There was an increase of people being violent to women and girls during the pandemic when people were told to stay home and they had less money.



Organisations of people with disabilities tried to help women with disabilities get help if they had experienced violence.



This was difficult for lots of reasons, such as long travel distances, inaccessible services or transport, police not helping, the need to have carers help when people were not allowed to travel.

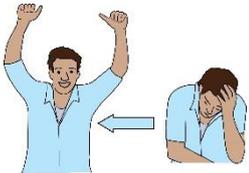


Local communities and women's organisations were important to provide help.



In Bangladesh we were told of how hard it is to help women whose families stole money from them

Mental Health

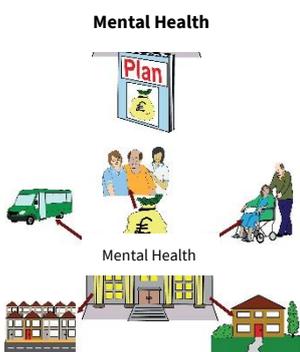


Mental health affects how you feel and think about life, for example being sad or happy



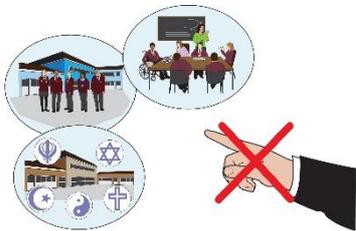
Lots of people are more nervous, worried and depressed during the pandemic.

Governments should provide more help to improve people's mental health.



Organisations of people with disabilities worked hard to give help to people who needed support with mental health during the pandemic. People with disabilities were calling them a lot because they were afraid, and they were suffering because they could not access information and services.

Education



Lots of schools closed during the pandemic, so organisations could not continue their work to help people with disabilities get an education.

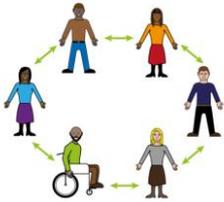


Children with disabilities were not accessing education when schools shut. Teaching was happening online and on radios instead of in schools.



Organisations of people with disabilities did work on radio, **social media**, and on the phone to help children with disabilities and their families during the pandemic. But they are worried that children with disabilities might not go back to school when the pandemic ends.

Finding 3



Organisations of people with disabilities told governments they needed to think more about people with disabilities and include them in their work.



Before the pandemic organisations of people with disabilities were telling governments to make sure people with disabilities had their rights recognised in laws and policies.



During the pandemic their work changed. They started telling governments to improve their response to the crisis and include people with disabilities in the response.



Governments only made their pandemic response better for people with disabilities after organisations had told them that they needed to change what they were doing to include people with disabilities.

Finding 4



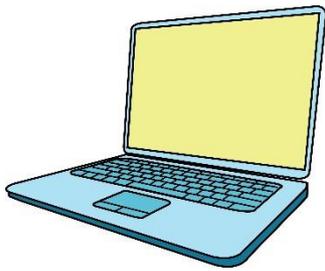
Using phones and computers became important for talking to people in the pandemic



People with disabilities are less likely to have access to the internet, phones and computers.



Disabled people could not talk to governments to explain their problems because this was done online



It's important that people with disabilities have fair access to internet, phones and computers because more activities are happening online.

Finding 5



During the pandemic there was much less money to pay for the work organisations of people with disabilities were doing.



Lots of money from governments and charities stopped being given to organisations of people with disability, sometimes without talking to the organisation about it.



Organisations of people with disabilities could not pay for costs like salaries, rent and electricity.



Sometimes the charities started doing the work that the organisation of people with disabilities could have done if they had enough money.

Finding 6



Working in the pandemic has been really hard for staff working for organisations of people with disabilities.



Sometimes they were not paid their salaries.



It was very stressful hearing about all the bad things happening to people with disabilities.

Finding 7



The pandemic has shown how important it is that organisations come together and work together.



They need to work closely with other organisations also working with people with disabilities.

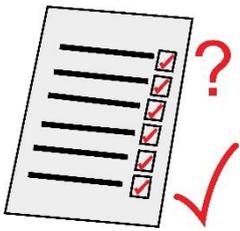


Big international charities should provide money and guidance, not do the work that organisations of people with disabilities can do.



It is important to work with other groups that help people that respond to crises, especially groups and organisations that work with women and girls who have experienced violence.

Finding 8



Different things affected how well organisations of people with disability could work during the pandemic



These are some of the things that helped organisations continue to do good work:

- Access to more than one source of money
- Ability to find people to give them money for their work





- Having long term relationships with donors so they understand what the organisation needs

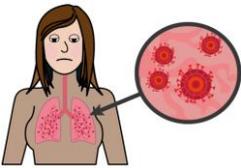


- Having a relationship with the government before the pandemic

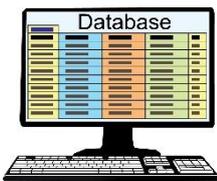


- Not needing lots of **volunteers** or community groups in order to do their work

6. What words mean?



COVID-19 is a virus that has made lots of people around the world ill



Data is information about the number of different things, such as the number of people with a disability



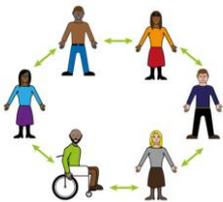
Donors are groups that give money to people doing good work around the world



International Development supports people around the world who do not have enough access to the things they need



Mental health affects how you feel and think about life, such as being sad or happy



Organisations of people with disabilities work in countries around the world and support people with disabilities to live good lives



A **pandemic** is when lots of people catch the same illness and it spreads very quickly in many countries



Research is about finding lots of information about a specific thing and bringing it all together into **data** or a report



Umbrella organisations are organisations that speak for lots of smaller organisations and link them together



Volunteers are people that help good causes for free