**GPcwd Humanitarian Action Taskforce update # 1**

Dear Members of the GPcwd Task Force on Humanitarian Action,

We are pleased you have joined this task force. The purpose of this email is to review the activities agreed on during the first Forum in September 2012, give you an update on work that has already begun and ask for your engagement.

For those of you that attended the 1st Forum, you will recall that the partners identified Humanitarian Action as one of four major topics to focus on for the first year of activities. The aim being to to advocate for more inclusive humanitarian action that addresses children with disabilities and to influence the post-2015 agenda. A [background note](http://www.unicef.org/disabilities/files/Background_Note_Emergencies_for_GPcwd.pdf) was developed outlining the key linkages and considerations with regards to inclusive emergencies and children with disabilities.

**Planned activities & progress to date:**

1.      Support successful adoption of the General Assembly Resolution on disability in humanitarian action

a.      Status: the latest Humanitarian Omnibus Resolution (2012) clearly mentioned disability and work is underway to have a specific ECOSOC resolution on inclusive humanitarian action in 2013. **If members know of governments who may be interested in co-sponsoring this resolution please contact Gopal Mitra with UNICEF at** [**gmitra@unicef.org**](mailto:gmitra@unicef.org)**.**

b.     Text from Humanitarian Omnibus Resolution (OP22): Requests Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response, including disaster preparedness and needs assessments, take into account the specific needs of the affected population, recognizing that giving appropriate consideration to, inter alia, gender, age and disability is part of a comprehensive and effective humanitarian response, and in this regard encourages efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to include the needs of persons with disabilities in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction,  in humanitarian and recovery programming and, as appropriate, in post humanitarian emergency reconstruction.

2.      Create/expand a web-based platform to share best practices and documentation on disability in humanitarian action

a.      Status: The International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) Task Group on Disability, Conflict and Emergency has started to map the existing resources to facilitate inclusion of persons with disability in humanitarian/disaster risk management projects. The [mapping tool](http://webcms.unicef.org/CMS/ioEditor/%5bioID%5dE932657A791E492AA86DD40A3E0F2811/Mapping_disability_ressource_for_disaster_risk_management_IDDC.XLSX) is attached to this message and **we kindly request members of this group to complete and send it back to me at** [**Valerie.Scherrer@cbm.org**](mailto:Valerie.Scherrer@cbm.org) **and copy Amy Farkas** [**afarkas@unicef.org**](mailto:afarkas@unicef.org) **by 29 April 2013.** Once we have a more comprehensive list of resources it will be shared through the GPcwd website managed by UNICEF and we will also discuss with reliefweb and preventionweb to include a tab on disability inclusive resources and publications. Any other suggestions on how to gather existing resources are welcome.

3.      Ensure inclusion of disability inclusive disaster risk reduction in the Hyogo Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction and other related processes

a.      Status: Through the **Disability Inclusive DRR Network for Asia Pacific** ([www.didrrn.net](http://www.didrrn.net/)) which has been very active in planning events and action during the GPDRR, the following is planned. If members of this group plan to engage in the Global Platform please inform Valerie to coordinate involvement.

                                          i.     A side event on Disability in DRR organised by the DiDRRN, the Nippon Foundation and GIZ with persons with disability as speakers alongside experts on DRR and Disability

                                         ii.     Two IGNITE stage presentations, one picturing the participation of woman with disability in disaster management committee in Bangladesh, the other one having youth with hearing impairments performing an awareness raising show on disaster risk management

                                        iii.     A market place organized by Handicap International

                                       iv.     The Featured Event: The health imperative for safer and resilient communities will include the launch of the Guidance note on how to include disability in emergency for health stakeholders and will include a person with disability as speaker

                                         v.     The young people with hearing impairments will also actively participate in the UNICEF led events related to Children and DRR

b.      Beside the participation of persons with disability in those activities, the network has produced a policy brief on Disability in DRR and has been active in the Global Network for CSOs on Disaster Reduction conference which aimed at producing recommendations for the post 15 Hyogo Framework for Action.

**Next Steps for this Task Force:**

·        If members know of governments who may be interested in co-sponsoring an ECOSOC resolution on disability please contact Gopal Mitra with UNICEF at [gmitra@unicef.org](mailto:gmitra@unicef.org).

·        Members to add resources to the attached list (in excel) or send separately to me at [Valerie.Scherrer@cbm.org](mailto:Valerie.Scherrer@cbm.org) and copy Amy Farkas with UNICEFat [afarkas@unicef.org](mailto:afarkas@unicef.org) **by 29 April 2013**

·        If members of this group plan to attend the Global Platform please let me know to foster collaboration on advocacy during the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

Also for your information, plans are being made for a 2nd Forum to be held in New York September 24th. More details will soon be available! For the report and documents from the 1st Forum visit <http://www.unicef.org/disabilities/index_65319.html>.

Best Regards,

Valerie

Valerie Scherrer

CBM