



Handicap International e.V. and the Centre for Humanitarian Action e.V.
cordially invite you to the following online event
with an advocate and representative from the affected population with disabilities in Syria,
and opening remarks by the German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt)

Two Years on - The IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action: What Are Promising Practices, Challenges and First Lessons Learned in Syria?

When	Wednesday, 29 September 2021, 12:30-14:00 CEST
Where	Online via Zoom
Accessibility	International Sign Interpretation and English Live Captioning will be provided

We would be delighted to welcome you **online**.

For participation please register on the [CHA website](#) and let us know as soon as possible if you require any other reasonable accommodation.

A link will be shared two days before the event, together with Joining Instructions to all registered participants. Please note that the event will be recorded.

Agenda

Welcome by Pit Köhler, Head of Division, Humanitarian Assistance – Policy, International Organisations, Multilateral Coordination, German Federal Foreign Office

Discussion with:

Davide Amurri

Deputy Manager - Head of Monitoring Humanitarian Financing Unit, Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

Gulnaz Ibrahim

Ambassador for Persons with Disabilities in Northeast Syria

Ibrahim Kader

Emergency Programs Coordinator, North East Syria (NES), Mercy Corps

Ralf Südhoff

Director & Chair
Centre for Humanitarian Action e.V.

Background of the Event

Men and women, boys and girls with disabilities are disproportionately affected in humanitarian emergencies. For instance, first quality data from the Syrian response demonstrates that 28% of the Syrian population have one or more disabilities, while the global average being 15%.

However, persons with disabilities are among those affected population groups that are least likely to access basic and specific services. For too long, the lack of quality data, led to humanitarian needs overviews that overlooked persons with disabilities. Eventually, resulting in a lack of inclusive humanitarian response plans and strategies.

To address this situation, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) "[Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action](#)" were launched in 2019. They are the result of an inclusive and participatory consultative process with more than 600 stakeholders from the humanitarian and disability sector. And, they are also the first interagency tool to help improve and steer strategic efforts to better include and engage persons with disabilities in the humanitarian response.

The event is supported through the project [Phase 2 – Leave no one behind!](#) financed by the German Federal Foreign Office.

Speaker Background

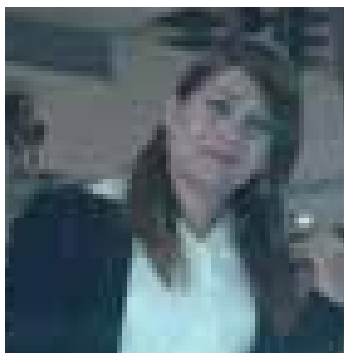


Davide Amurri

Deputy Manager - Head of Monitoring Humanitarian Financing Unit, Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund (SCHF), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

Humanitarian Worker with 19 years of experience managing multi-sectorial and regional humanitarian, complex-emergency, development, advocacy portfolios in the Middle East (Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq), Asia (Sri Lanka, India), Italy. In the past 8 years, Davide has been engaged in the Middle East in the Response to the Syrian Crisis, working in various countries of the region with International NGOs, and partnering with a wide range of stakeholders, both at program and coordination level.

Davide is currently based in Turkey, supporting the Syrian Cross-border Humanitarian Response, within OCHA Financing Unit, as Deputy Pooled Fund Manager, Head of Monitoring and Accountability to Affected Population.



Gulnaz Ibrahim

Ambassador for persons with disabilities in Northeast Syria

Guinaz was born in 1974, in Qamishly, North East of Syria. She had polio when she was three years old causing a semi-paralysis to her left leg. She lost both of her parents at a very early age, and lived as an orphan ever since. However, that did not destroy her ambition to be an autonomous person. She learned to be a dentist's nurse to be able to finish her secondary education, and moved to Damascus to study Turkish literature. However, due to her financial situation she had to switch her major and studied vocational rehabilitation for people with disabilities, to continue working and providing for herself.

Gulnaz was a member of the Syrian Association for the persons with disability in Damascus and participated in weight lifting tournaments for persons with disabilities.

When the war began in Syria, and on her way back from work, she was very close to a bombing of a transportation bus in Damascus, causing multiple fractures to her paralyzed leg and worsening her ability to move around, forcing her into doing multiple surgery, which affected her already hard financial situation.

Gulnaz is a warrior that never let go of her dreams. Now that she is back home, she participates in HI's ambassador program and continues to advocate for persons with disability and inspire her community.



Ibrahim Kader

Emergency Programs Coordinator, North East Syria (NES), Mercy Corps

Ibrahim Kader has been working with Mercy Corps for about 7 years: 3 years with the Turkey program working from Turkey and crossing the border to Syria to support the people of his hometown Kobane and other cities affected by the conflict, and 4 years with the NES program based in Ein Issa and now Raqqa.

Originally an English teacher, he taught in high schools for about 4 years. In 2014, when the conflict intensified in Kobane, he left with his family to Turkey where he joined Mercy Corps. By working from Turkey, crossing the border to support the people in Syria and meeting experienced individuals, he became a humanitarian.

During the first year of the response, Mercy Corps was focusing on providing emergency assistance to displaced population (RTERs, Food baskets, NFIs, New arrival kits, Hygiene kits, Baby kits... etc) and basic services (such as water systems' repair, etc). Over the time, the activities evolve according to the contextual changes and needs we were facing on the ground: we progressively started to distribute cash and in 2018, we started working on a joint activity with Humanity & Inclusion (HI) whereby Mercy Corps assists with cash assistance medical cases referred to them by HI. Mercy Corps is now working on adapting its activities to new contextual realities and transition families benefitting from emergency assistance to resilience and long-term activities.

Growing up in a family interested in culture and art, Ibrahim graduated from the Faculty of Art (English Literature) and has a good knowledge of diverse countries and people' cultures and literatures. Later interest in multi-cultural music shaped whom he is. Two elements are the most valuable to him, he says: his family and his job. He has been married for 8 years and has three kids (a daughter and two sons). It is extremely important to him to take care of their education, moral and safety, although it is hard, particularly given the current Syrian situation. Besides finding harmony and balance on this, it is important to him to look after his job and learn to move forward.



Ralf Südhoff

Director Centre for Humanitarian Action e.V.

Ralf Südhoff has been founding director of the Centre for Humanitarian Action e.V. (CHA) since January 2019. He heads the research project on the policy and strategic capacities of German humanitarian actors. He also focuses on the Syrian crisis and the MENA region, on humanitarian reform and monetary policy, on global food security and the Humanitarian-Development-Peace-Nexus.

Before joining CHA, Ralf was Director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP) Regional Bureau for the Syria Crisis in Amman (2017-2018). Prior to that, he was Director of the WFP Office in Berlin for Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Liechtenstein for almost 10 years. In addition, Ralf was Head of External Relations of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Bonn and advisor to Ms Uschi Eid, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

As a journalist, Ralf worked as South American correspondent for the weekly newspaper Die ZEIT in Rio de Janeiro and as editor in charge of the commentary & analysis section of the Financial Times Deutschland. Ralf served as member of the Oxfam Germany's management board for 10 years.

Ralf holds a Master's degree in International Studies from the University of Warwick and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Economics from the University of Hamburg.