COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor

Summary – June 15-22, 2020

# Submissions

Total submissions: 36

## Type of respondents

**Individuals:**

Of the 36 respondents, 19 are women, 14 are men and 3 selected other. They identified themselves as:

* Person with disabilities 13
* Organisation of persons with disabilities 12
* Family member 2
* Other 9

## Submissions per country

In the week June 15-22, there were submissions from 15 countries. Countries with the most responses are South Africa (20), Romania (5) and Mozambique (3). The list of the countries is illustrated below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| South Africa | ZA | 20 |
| Romania | RO | 5 |
| Mozambique | MZ | 4 |
| Germany | DE | 3 |
| Bangladesh | BD | 2 |
| Italy | IT | 2 |
| Burkina Faso | BF | 1 |
| Canada | CA | 1 |
| Colombia | CO | 1 |
| Greece | GR | 1 |
| Kenya | KE | 1 |
| Puerto Rico | PR | 1 |
| Portugal | PT | 1 |
| Uganda | UG | 1 |

# Summary of narrative responses

Respondents expressed anger that disability-specific measures were not put in place to protect people with disabilities during lockdowns. Several respondents outlined their additional needs, which were not taken into consideration when their governments enacted lockdown rules. For instance, face masks are problematic for persons with hearing impairments or autism. Furthermore, people were frightened that the nature of their impairment meant that they were more exposed to the virus. Respondents felt abandoned by their governments. One respondent said that they were left to die. Two respondents complained that persons with disabilities were treated as outcasts before the pandemic, and this discrimination has continued throughout the pandemic.

Respondents from South and Central America complained that their governments were struggling to address the emergency, and that information was unclear or confusing. Many people called for more accessible information, in sign-language, for instance.

One respondent who worked within a Canadian institution reported that residents who so much as coughed were put into isolation away from other residents. As a result, there was a noticeable increase in mental health issues among residents.