COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor

Summary – June 22-29, 2020

# Submissions

Total submissions: 31

## Type of respondents

**Individuals:**

Of the 30 respondents, 16 are women, 11 are men and 3 selected other. They identified themselves as:

Person with disabilities 16

Organisation of persons with disabilities 7

Family member 4

NGO 3

17 people said that they live in community, while 2 people said that they live in an institution. Of those persons with disability living in institutions, they live in a home for adults with disabilities and a home for people with multiple disabilities.

**National Human Rights Institutions – 1 response**

Liberia: Independent National Commission on Human Rights

## Submissions per country

In the week June 22 –29, there were submissions from 14 countries. Countries with most responses are Countries with the most responses are South Africa (7), Germany (5) and Romania (3). The list of the countries is illustrated below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No | Country | Abbr | Number of responses |
| 1 | South Africa | ZA | 7 |
| 2 | Germany | DE | 5 |
| 3 | Romania | RO | 3 |
| 4 | Kenya | KE | 3 |
| 5 | Spain | US | 2 |
| 6 | Slovakia  | SK | 2 |
| 7 | Bangladesh | BD | 1 |
| 8 | Congo | CO | 1 |
| 9 | Moldova | MD | 1 |
| 10 | Mexico | MX | 1 |
| 11 | Mozambique | MZ | 1 |
| 12 | Nepal  | NP | 1 |
| 13 | Rwanda | RW | 1 |
| 14 | United States | US | 1 |

# Summary of narrative responses

The majority of persons with disabilities expressed dissatisfaction with their government’s response. Measures were taken were for the general population and did not take the diverse needs of persons with disabilities into account. As restrictions ease in some countries, there is no specific information for persons with disabilities regarding the new rules. Furthermore, new rules regarding face masks and personal protection do not take into account the diverse needs of people with disabilities. For example, there was a report of discrimination against people who cannot wear face masks for health reasons, in countries where it is compulsory. There were also several complaints that information was not provided in sign language. There were calls for governments to respond to the diverse needs of persons with disabilities in the planning stages of their Covid response.

Parents of children felt abandoned by the authorities because schools closed and they were not provided with supports for remote learning. There were also complaints that children were not receiving essential services.

Although restrictions are easing in some countries, residents in institutions remain isolated, without visitors. Some respondents with disabilities said that their governments had taken measures to regulate sanitation within institutions for persons with disabilities. One respondent said that while certain relief materials such as food/sanitation/medical items were made available, they were inadequate. Furthermore, a Romanian respondent referred to an outbreak in an institution, where residents were locked inside, and received no medical attention.