COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor

Summary – June 29-July 5, 2020

# Submissions

Total submissions: 57

## Type of respondents

**Individuals:**

Of the 57 respondents, 34 were women, 18 were men, 3 selected other, and 2 did not disclose. They identified themselves as:

Organisation of persons with disabilities 25

Person with disabilities 20

Family member 5

Other 7

39 people said that they live in community, while 1 person said that they live in an institution.

## Submissions per country

In the week June 29-July 05, there were submissions from 20 countries. Countries with the most responses are Moldova (23), Rwanda (9) and Bangladesh (5). The list of the countries is illustrated below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Moldova | MD | 23 |
| Rwanda | RW | 9 |
| Bangladesh | BD | 5 |
| Ireland | IE | 3 |
| India | IN | 2 |
| Andorra | AD | 1 |
| Australia  | AU | 1 |
| Canada | CA | 1 |
| Colombia | CO | 1 |
| Ecuador | EC | 1 |
| Greece | GR | 1 |
| Liberia | LR | 1 |
| Myanmar | MM | 1 |
| Malawi | MW | 1 |
| Norway | NO | 1 |
| Nepal | NP | 1 |
| Philippines | PH | 1 |
| Portugal | PT | 1 |
| Uganda | UG | 1 |
| Zimbabwe | ZW | 1 |

# Summary of narrative responses

**As the restrictions ease in some countries, concerns are growing for persons with disabilities who remain isolated in institutions. Respondents from Ireland, Moldova, and Andorra have expressed grave concerns about the high number of deaths and the conditions in institutions. There is also distress about the lack of information regarding the conditions within institutions, many of which remain cut off from society. Respondents feared that there were inadequate health and safety measures to protect residents during the pandemic. They also expressed concern that the residents did not have access to the usual complaints mechanisms. One of the respondents suspected that people in institutions could not access a complaints hotline service during the pandemic because the number of calls from residential institutions decreased significantly during the COVID period. A small number of respondents claimed to work within institutions confirmed this. For instance, there were reports of insufficient PPE and poor hygiene standards in Moldova. One worker said that they had to purchase PPE as it was not provided by the institution. Another respondent reported self-harm and overmedication of residents.**

**Many respondents complained about the lack of disability-specific measures. Most respondents felt that the relief measures taken by governments were aimed at the general population and were not tailored for disabled people. Persons with disabilities and their family members continue to feel forgotten by their governments. There were a few positive examples of food relief measures in Zimbabwe, yet, where food was available is was generally inadequate.**

**Respondents from the Philippines, Nepal, and Zimbabwe were concerned that persons with disabilities and their family members had inadequate access to food. Although food relief was available, it was insufficient and irregular.**

**Respondents from Norway, Andorra, Malawi, and Moldova complained that children with disabilities were excluded from school because the measures put in place to provide distance learning were inaccessible for students with disabilities. For instance, a respondent from Malawi reported that children with disabilities were not considered in the development of school radio programmes. Similarly, a Moldovan respondent complained that children with disabilities could not participate in online school lessons. As a result, parents had to take responsibility for their children’s education.**

There were reports of police brutality and violence in Uganda. A respondent from Zimbabwe raised concerns about gender-based violence during the lockdown. Women and girls with disabilities may not be able to report cases of violence during the lockdown.