COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor

Summary – June 1 - 7, 2020

# Submissions

Total submissions: 48 (last week: 52)

## Type of Respondents

**Individuals: 48**

Of the 48 respondents, 24 are women, 22 men and 2 individuals preferred not to disclose or select other. They identified themselves as:

* Persons with disabilities 22 – 46%
* DPOs 10 – 21%
* Other 10 – 21 %
* Family member 6 – 12%

The category “other” included a researcher, support worker, disability ally, INGO staff and people that work for or founded an organization focused on persons with disabilities.

Further, 31 people noted they live in the community, while 1 person noted that they live in an institution. The one person living in an institution lives in a group home.

**Government – 1**

* Mozambique- Associação para o Fortalecimento Comunitário/Association for Community Strengthening (UATAF-AFC)

**National Human Rights Institutions – 1**

* Argentina- ITINERIS Foundation, National Observation for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD National Monitoring Mechanism)

## Submissions per country

In the week 1 – 7 June, there were submissions from 27 countries (compared to 25 last week). Sixteen of the 27 countries only had one respondent per country. Only two countries, the United Kingdom and Mozambique, had more than 3 respondents. Countries with most responses included the United Kingdom (8), Mozambique (5), Canada, Italy and South Africa (3 each) and Australia, Chile, Guatemala, Nigeria, The Netherlands, and the United States (2 each). The table below lists the 11 countries with the most respondents.

For those with screen readers, the first column of the table below contains the ranking of the countries based on the number of respondents from each respective country. The second and third columns contain the name of the country and the abbreviation of the country name. The final column lists the number of responses from each respective country.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | Country | Abbr | Number of responses | |
| 1 | United Kingdom | GB | | 8 |
| 2 | Mozambique | MZ | | 4 |
| 3 | Canada | CA | | 3 |
| 4 | Italy | IT | | 3 |
| 5 | South Africa | ZA | | 3 |
| 6 | Australia | AU | | 2 |
| 7 | Chile | CL | | 2 |
| 8 | Guatemala | GT | | 2 |
| 9 | Nigeria | NG | | 2 |
| 10 | The Netherlands | NL | | 2 |
| 11 | United States | US | | 2 |

The countries that had only one respondent include: Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bolivia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Switzerland, Colombia, Germany, France, Honduras, India, Peru, Senegal, and South Africa.

# Summary of narrative responses

The overall themes from this week, however, are similar to previous weeks. Observations worth noting include:

1. Deep Awareness of Lack of Protective Measures – There were clear comments on the lack of government measures for persons with disabilities. Thirty-nine percent of individuals respondents who provided narrative responses noted the lack of protective measures (questions 11-15) for children with disabilities or persons with disabilities experiencing homelessness, while 64% of the individual respondents that provided narrative answers about what the government has/has not done to protect the life, healthy, and safety of children and persons with disabilities in different living situations (questions 16-21) were quite knowledgeable about restrictions on visitation, freedom of movement and the lack of protective measured that have been taken for persons with disabilities.
2. Complaint Mechanisms - Access to independent complaint mechanisms and lawyers varied across countries. Forty-three percent of narrative responses indicated a lack of access to lawyers, poor services, a lack of transparency once complaints had been registered, or a lack of resources for government offices to be open or address all complaints. A relatively large percentage, 21%, indicated that the government does have mechanisms to manage complaints well (such NGOs in Zimbabwe, legal services in Switzerland, or the Office of the Ombudsman or the Office of the Cantonal Institute for the Provision of Free Legal Aid in Bosnia Herzegovina).
3. Concerns – Individual respondents were generally concerned about access to health services, medical treatment and food, immediate and long-term economic effects of lockdowns. This includes:
   * + Access to information that is appropriate to their needs;
     + Access to inclusive services that were available before shelter at home orders and lock downs;
     + Short- and long-term economic consequences of COVID-19 for persons with disabilities;
     + Unchecked and unclear rules for persons with disabilities living with caregivers or in institutions; and
     + Lack of access to education for children with disabilities.

It is worth noting that two individual respondents noted that as countries begin to open up, they have concerns about protective measures for persons with disabilities.

1. Best Practices - In terms of best practices, very similar to last week 27% of respondents said that they did not have any good practices to share. When individual respondents did provide best practices, the following were included:

* Providing all information in accessible formats such as Braille and large prints and have competent sign language interpreters for all televised and recorded government information sessions
* Assistance to DPOs, who in turn provide services and personal protective equipment to persons with disabilities
* Advocacy by DPOs, including public pronouncements demanding CPRD compliance in COVID-19 responses
* Uninterrupted provision of medical and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities either in-person or online