Leave No One Behind

A report about what happens to people with disabilities when there are wars and other big problems in the world
Who we are

We are called Human Rights Watch.

We work to make sure everyone in the world is treated fairly and gets their rights.

What this report is about

This report is about what happens to people with disabilities when there are wars or other big problems in the world.

Big problems can be things like floods, earthquakes or when people do not have enough food or water.

There are lots of problems like this in the world.
From September 2013 to March 2016 we looked at how people with disabilities and their families were living in countries called:

- Central African Republic
- Iraq
- Yemen

There are wars happening in these countries.

We spoke to many people with disabilities and their families.

We also looked at what problems people with disabilities have when they come to Europe from other countries.

Many of these people leave their own countries because of war.
We also looked at why it is hard for children with disabilities to go to school when there are big problems in their countries.

We found that people with disabilities are often treated very badly when there are wars or other big problems.

This is wrong. People with disabilities should be safe and get what they need, just like anyone else.

They should not be left behind.

This report looks at:
- what we found out
- what we want to happen next
What we found out

Being left behind

During wars people often have to leave home very quickly because it is dangerous.

It can take longer for people with disabilities to leave home.

For example, they may find it hard to move very fast.

It can be very dangerous for families to wait for them because they may get killed or hurt.

Many people with disabilities get left behind because of this.
People with disabilities who are left at home may not have enough food or water.

Sometimes people with disabilities are killed.

There are other problems.

For example, people with disabilities may not have:

- the right information about what is happening or how to keep safe
- wheelchairs or other things to help them move somewhere else

Family or friends often have to carry them.

Some people have to stay behind because it is too hard to move.

Roads may be hard to travel on with wheelchairs and other things that help people move around.
Food, water and medical care

People with disabilities can find it hard to get what they need when there are big problems in their countries.

For example:

- hospitals may be closed or damaged by bombs
- there may not be enough medicine or other support
- people may lose their medicine on the journey from one country to another
- medicine may cost too much
- health places may be hard to get to
- people may not get the mental health care they need after bad things happen to them
Many people who leave their countries have nowhere to live.

They have to live in tents in camps or other places.

They can have big problems there like:

- It is hard to get food and water

- toilets and showers that are hard for people with disabilities to use

- things that are dangerous for people who cannot see, like fires burning and big holes in the ground

- information that is hard to understand
Education

We looked at what was happening in Yemen, Central African Republic, Lebanon and Jordan.

Some children with disabilities moved to Lebanon and Jordan because of war in Syria.

There are many problems. For example:

- schools can be hard to get to
- many children with disabilities do not get the right support to learn and join in
- transport to school can cost too much
- schools may say no to children with disabilities
What we want to happen

These are things for governments and groups that support people in the world to do.

Governments and groups should:

- make sure people with disabilities get everything they need

- make sure people with disabilities are not left out

People with disabilities should help make plans and decisions about what to do in an emergency

- make sure there is enough money for this to happen
Governments and groups should also:

• provide information on how to support people with disabilities in an emergency

• get good information to show what people with disabilities need

• make it easy for people with disabilities to get food, water and medical care

• make it easier for all children with disabilities to go to school and get a good education
Governments and groups should also:

- make sure camps are easy for people with disabilities to live in

- make information easy for people with disabilities to understand

- give staff training about how to support people with disabilities and make sure they have a say

- make sure there is someone in hospitals to help deaf people understand information
Hamamatou’s story

Hamamatou is from the Central African Republic.

She is 13 years old. It is hard for her to walk.

Fighters came to her village. She was in danger and had to leave.

She could not leave on her own so her brother had to carry her.

But her brother got very tired carrying her.

Hamamatou told him to leave her there and save his own life. So her brother left.

The fighters found her 2 weeks later.

They wanted to kill her. But luckily one fighter saved her life.