

BIG ISSUES IN OUR LIVES

What Needs to Change

What Climate Change and Crisis Situations look like for People with Intellectual Disabilities

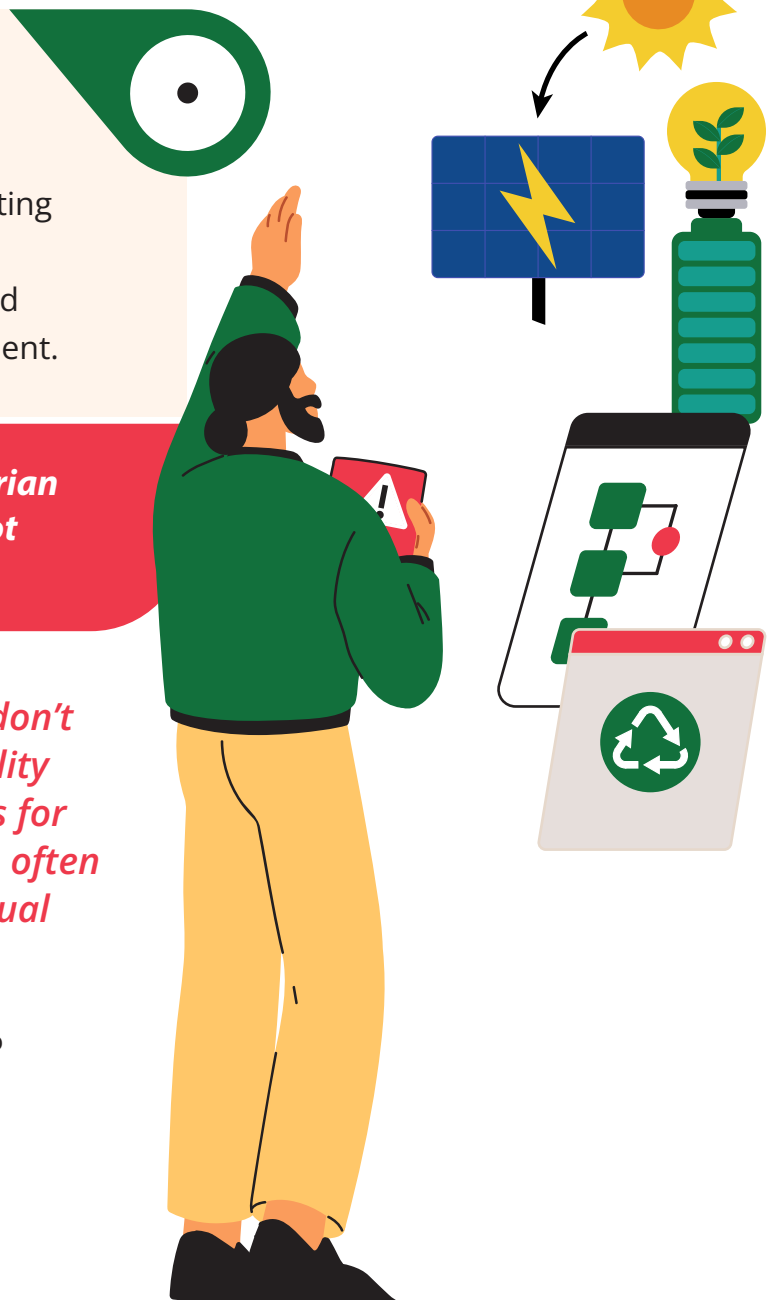
Our Experience with Climate Change and Support in Crisis Situations

All over the world, climate change is creating challenges for people with intellectual disabilities. During an emergency we need better support to stay safe and independent.

We are often excluded from humanitarian response because organizations do not understand the help that we need.

"Humanitarian organisations often don't understand what intellectual disability is. There are humanitarian activities for people with disabilities but they are often inaccessible to people with intellectual disabilities."

OPD REPRESENTING PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITIES IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



Our Rights

Article 11 says that governments need to work to keep us safe during emergencies, including climate disasters.

Big Problems We Face

Discrimination

- Humanitarian organizations do not understand intellectual disability
- We face discrimination from other people when we try to get help
- We are not included in conversations about climate change and disasters

Accessible Information

- We don't have access to accessible information about the disaster
- Humanitarian workers don't know how to talk to us

"[Aid workers] asked us [what we need], they just registered our name to provide, to give us some support. But they didn't give us that support."

SELF-ADVOCATE, BURKINA FASO



"We people with intellectual disability, we are the vulnerable ones. Climate change is a big problem for our earth."

SELF-ADVOCATE, RWANDA



Inclusive Humanitarian Response Looks Like...

- We get clear information about what is happening in emergencies
- Emergency workers know how to communicate with us
- We can access aid, like shelter and food
- We are included in decisions about climate change and humanitarian aid
- Humanitarian organizations work with and respect organizations that support us

What Needs To Change

What Governments and Humanitarian Organizations Can Do

- Make Accessible Information
 - Create warnings that everyone can understand
 - Use different ways to tell people about emergencies
- Provide Inclusive Services
 - Train emergency and humanitarian workers to understand the needs of people with intellectual disabilities
- Listen to People with Intellectual Disabilities
 - Include people with intellectual disabilities in discussions on climate change and emergencies
 - Respect Organizations of Persons with Disabilities
 - Support climate projects led by people with intellectual disabilities

"People with intellectual disabilities struggle more because they often don't have jobs, money, cars, or their places to stay. This makes it hard to recover from climate problems."

SELF-ADVOCATE, SOUTH AFRICA



"I want the aid workers to be welcoming."

SELF-ADVOCATE, ETHIOPIA



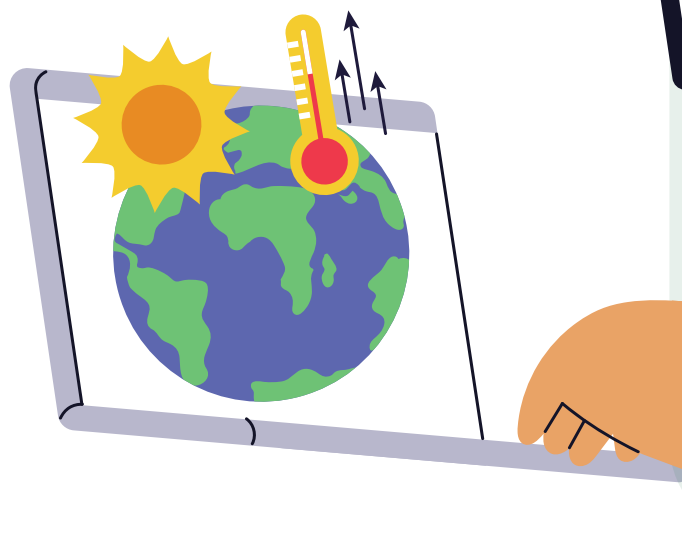
Resources from our network

- ➔ [Good Examples - Hearing from Girls with Intellectual Disabilities - Listen Include Respect](#)

This document was made by self-advocates from the Inclusion International network. It was prepared for the Global Disability Summit in 2025. The German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funded this work through UNICEF. The content represents the views of people with intellectual disabilities around the world — it does not necessarily represent what GIZ or UNICEF think.

“Climate change is important to people with intellectual disabilities... We need to learn more about it and know how to stay safe when it happens.”

SELF-ADVOCATE, UGANDA



OUR BIG MESSAGE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND CRISIS SITUATIONS

People with intellectual disabilities around the world want to be included in discussions on Climate Change and responses to Emergencies.

Information about emergencies should be clear and easy to understand.

