

# A Report about the Humanitarian Inclusion Survey

Humanitarian organisations tell us how  
adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities  
are being included in humanitarian action

October 2024



## Project background

Inclusion International and the International Rescue Committee (IRC for short) are working together on a project.

The project is about making sure that humanitarian work includes girls with intellectual disabilities.

“Humanitarian work” means the work that organizations do to help people who are living in difficult situations to have their needs met. For example, helping people who have lived through wars or disasters like floods.

This project is about “adolescent girls” with intellectual disabilities. This means girls who are ages 10-19.

Adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities are often left behind and not included in humanitarian work. This project wants to find out why adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities are not included and how humanitarian organizations can do better.



## About the survey

In March 2024, we sent a survey to humanitarian organizations. We wanted to understand:

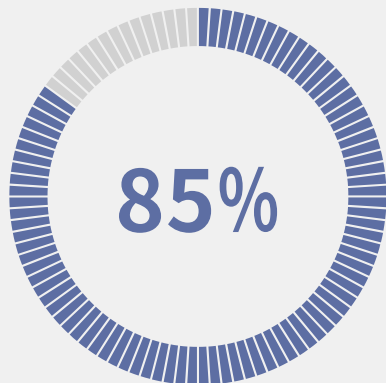
- How humanitarian organizations include adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities
- What barriers humanitarian organizations think there are for adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities

We shared the survey with IRC staff, Inclusion International networks and partners, the Disability Reference Group, and the project's Inclusion Advisory Group.

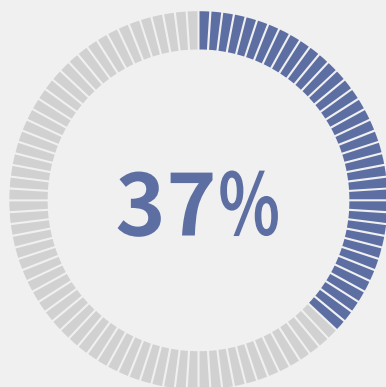
86 people from different organizations responded to the survey.

## Survey findings

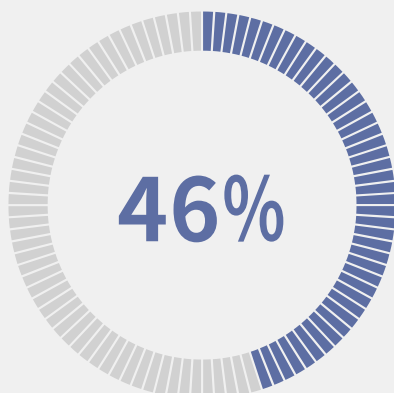
Here are the key findings from the survey:



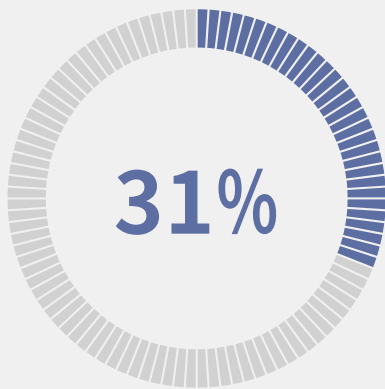
of people believe that including people with disabilities should be a top priority in humanitarian work.



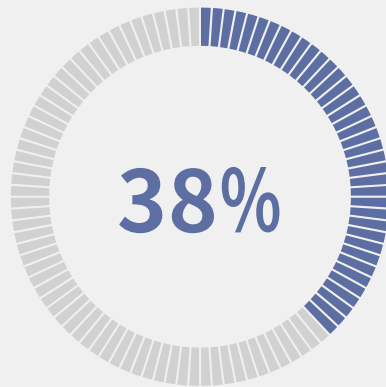
said that most of their team members have received training on how to include people with disabilities.



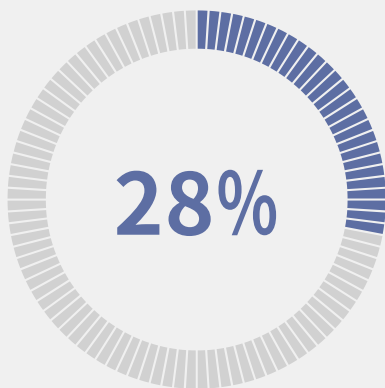
of people talk with adolescent girls with disabilities when designing their program or doing their program.



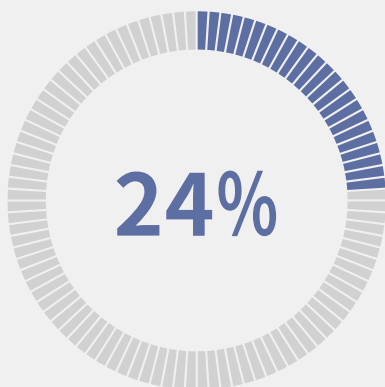
of people talk with adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities about programs, and



invite them to participate in programs.



collect feedback from adolescent girls with disabilities to learn about their experiences in the program.



said their programs had successfully included adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities.

The survey results show that many humanitarian organizations are not including adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities or listening to their voices.

## Challenges and Recommendations:

- ◆ Adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities are at high risk of violence, abuse, discrimination, isolation, and lack of access to services.
- ◆ Program materials are not adapted or accessible for adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities.
- ◆ Only 7% of staff feel they have enough guidance, resources, and tools to include adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities in their programs.
- ◆ **The lack of specialized training, funding, and practical tools are the biggest barriers to including adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities.**

This shows that humanitarian organizations need support to include adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities.

In our project, we will be making training materials and practical tools to help organizations do better at including adolescent girls with intellectual disabilities.

### **For more information, please contact:**

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The International Rescue Committee (IRC) helps people affected by humanitarian crises to survive, recover, and rebuild their lives.



Inclusion International  
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Inclusion International is the global OPD network representing people with intellectual disabilities and their families.

