

The principle of “**Leave No One Behind**” is the central promise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It entails reaching out to every individual, particularly those who are often marginalized or excluded.

“**Dutch Relief Alliance**” grounds its work on the SDGs and is committed to the principle of leaving no one behind by mainstreaming inclusion of marginalized groups in its humanitarian programming. These groups include, for example, elderly, children, women, migrants, ethnic or religious minorities and people with disabilities.



An **intersectional lens** is key to inclusion. For example, an elderly woman with a disability has different needs than a migrant girl. Recognizing these intersecting attributes ensures humanitarian programming is responsive to the specific needs of marginalised groups.

6 ELEMENTS OF INCLUSIVE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



Address root causes of exclusion and marginalisation

by identifying and removing barriers to inclusion, such as:

- **Attitudinal barriers of humanitarian actors:** be aware of the biases that humanitarian actors and leaders may have, avoid assumptions about vulnerability.
- **Structural barriers:** engage with the root causes of exclusion that perpetuate patterns of discrimination, advocate for the rights of the marginalized.



Collect and rely on good quality data

Monitoring and evaluation approaches help to understand the dynamics of inclusion and exclusion within a crisis, as well as tracking whether inclusion is being effectively operationalised in the response.

- Collect disaggregated data on gender, age and disability.
- Complement quantitative data with qualitative data.



Integrate mainstream and tailored action by ensuring the concerns of all affected groups are integrated at all stages of humanitarian programming through mainstreaming track, while simultaneously implementing tailored actions to address identified barriers to inclusion and support marginalised population groups.



Collaborate with specialised local/national organisations who provide services and protect rights of marginalised groups, complement each other's work and mutually strengthen each other's capacities.



Enable self-reliance and resilience of communities by strengthening the capacities of local partners and affected communities to ensure sustainability of programs. **Capacity strengthening is mutual** – it is not just about transferring knowledge from international to local actors and communities but also about learning from local actors and practices.



Promote meaningful participation by ensuring that all programme events are accessible for marginalised population groups and they can meaningfully engage through participatory and inclusive decision-making processes and inclusive feedback and complaint mechanisms.



In the Syria Joint Response 2022-23 in Government controlled areas, partners conducted a Multi-Sector, Age, Gender, and Disability Inclusion (AGD) Analysis. The aim of the analysis was to support equitable programs, within and outside of the response, addressing diverse needs, promoting social justice and equality. The analysis identified barriers and opportunities for marginalized groups in Idlib and Aleppo Governorates. Based on the findings, recommendations were provided to enhance inclusivity in Health, Protection, Food Security and Livelihood Activities.



In the Syria Non-Government Controlled Areas Joint Response 2022-23 by the Dutch Relief Alliance, two pilot centers were set up to empower young women. These centers offered integrated services like psycho-social support, awareness sessions on gender-based violence, vocational training, and childcare support. The female youth also participated in a gender market assessment, helping to shape the research and gather data. Based on the findings, vocational training was provided to them.



In the Yemen Joint Response 2022-2023, capacity strengthening occurred in various forms. Gender training sessions were conducted for staff and community committees, enhancing understanding and awareness of gender issues and promoting equality. Additionally, women were trained in communication skills, leadership, and conflict resolution to empower them in implementing project activities. Finally, through the Joint Budget, an internship programme provided practical experience for interns from partner organisations, who were placed with both international and local NGOs.



CALL TO ACTION

Inclusive humanitarian programming is essential to address the diverse needs of all affected populations, ensuring equitable access to assistance and support.

The role of **donors and policymakers** is crucial to ensure inclusion becomes part of humanitarian debates and policy agenda. To drive this change, this is a call to action for:

- Continue **flexible funding** to ensure we can adapt to emerging and diverse needs, including those of marginalized groups.
- Support actions to **identify and remove barriers to inclusion** and advocate for the rights of the marginalized.
- Promote **leadership culture that prioritizes diversity and inclusion** within humanitarian actors as well as donors.
- Speak out about the importance of inclusion in humanitarian programming in policy debates by **showcasing the work of DRA**.
- Continue promoting the importance of **capacity strengthening as a mutual process** between international and local actors.
- Advocate for more **collaboration with specialised organisations**.