

These COVID-19 Analytical Snapshots are designed to capture the latest information and analysis in a fast-moving environment. Topics will be repeated from time to time as analysis develops. If you have an item to include, please email us at research@iom.int.

Migrants with disabilities

Many states fund broad social protection schemes designed to support people with disabilities. In many cases, state health care support depends upon [a worker's contributions during formal employment](#). This presents a barrier to disability services in a public health and economic crisis.

[Without adequate supports](#), migrants who have disabilities face multiplicative barriers which make it all the more difficult to have access to basic food, shelter and health necessities.

Additional considerations for people with disabilities

Robust support of migrants during the COVID-19 outbreak includes [additional considerations](#) for people with disabilities (PWDs).

Due to a variety of factors, a person with a disability may be at greater risk of contracting COVID-19, may have a more difficult time obtaining correct public health information and may face barriers that prevent access to health services or social supports.

Risks of exposure to COVID-19

Depending on each individual situation, people with disabilities can face [greater risks of exposure](#) to COVID-19. According to the [WHO](#), these risks are due to:

- ⇒ Barriers to basic hygiene measures, such as hand-washing
- ⇒ The necessity of touching surfaces to obtain information or for physical support
- ⇒ Difficulty of social distancing due to support needs or living in group environments

PWDs can also be at greater risk for more severe cases of the virus, due to:

- ⇒ The exacerbation of existing health conditions
- ⇒ Obstacles to accessing health care
- ⇒ Disruptions in the support systems typically in place

Assessing the needs of migrants with disabilities

[Access to services for Migrants with Disabilities \(AMiD\)](#), an EU-funded programme, developed the Needs Assessment Tool. This survey provides an [accessible method](#) to give migrants with disabilities the opportunity to express needs and preferences during integration.

AMiD - Access to services for migrants with disabilities

This Needs Assessment Tool (NAT) is developed under the European project AMiD: Access for Migrants with Disabilities, which aims to support the efficient management of the reception and integration of asylum seekers and migrants with disabilities in EU.



About the tool



Go to tool



Organisations

Source: [AMiD project](#).

Resources on COVID-19 for people with disabilities

[Disability considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak](#) from the WHO

[COVID-19 response: Considerations for Children and Adults with Disabilities](#) from UNICEF

[Toward a Disability-Inclusive COVID19 Response: 10 recommendations from the International Disability Alliance](#)

[COVID-19: Who is protecting the people with disabilities?—UN rights expert](#) from OHCHR

[Migrants with Disabilities: Ensuring access to quality services](#) by the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities

Considerations for children with disabilities

The [communication channels](#) frequently utilized for conveying safety information to children—early childhood programs and schools—may not be accessible to children with disabilities. By engaging [young people as sources of information](#), communication strategies can be tailored to the needs of local communities and individuals.

“ To face the pandemic, it is crucial that information about how to prevent and contain the coronavirus is accessible to everyone...Organizations of people with disabilities should be consulted and involved in all stages of the COVID-19 response.

—[Catalina Devandas](#), Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities

IOM's work with refugees living with disabilities

[About 5%](#) of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh live with some form of disability. IOM is working to address these barriers in Rohingya refugee camps. Click [this link](#) or the image on the right to learn more about IOM's work.



This COVID-19 Analytical Snapshot has been produced by [IOM Research](#) (research@iom.int).

Important disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IOM. The inclusion or presentation of material does not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IOM, or of any of its members or partners.