



Tips and recommendations on accessible construction and disability inclusive shelter programming in Ukraine

I. Introduction to disability inclusive shelter programming:

Disability inclusive shelter programming enables persons with disabilities to contribute more to their communities, participate more in consultations and decision-making, and facilitate their own protection. The key concepts include:

- Disability inclusive shelter programming is **both a process and an outcome**. By engaging persons with disabilities in the process, we will also improve the outcomes for persons with disabilities.
- The disability community has the slogan “**Nothing about us without us,**” reminding that we should include and work with persons with disabilities and their representative groups rather than plan or make decisions on their behalf. Persons with disabilities should be engaged throughout shelter programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

[IASC Guidelines on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action](#) outline four “Must do actions” in shelter programming. These “must do actions” must be undertaken in all phases of humanitarian action when implementing shelter programming for persons with disabilities:

1. Participation. For example:

- Make sure that persons with disabilities, and organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) participate in identifying barriers that impede access for persons with disabilities.
- Ensure that persons with disabilities and OPDs are included as key informants about barriers and enablers.
 - See [List of Organizations of persons with disabilities \(OPDs\) in Ukraine](#)
 - See [Tips for Communicating with people with disabilities and older people in Ukraine.](#)

2. Addressing barriers. For example:

- Use universal design principles to design shelters and plan settlements.
- Review sectoral policies, guidelines, and tools to ensure that they clearly affirm the right of persons with disabilities to access and inclusion.

3. Empowerment and capacity development. For example:

- Build the capacity of shelter and settlement staff in disability inclusion.

4. Data collection and monitoring. For example:

- Collect and analyse shelter and settlement data on persons with disabilities; disaggregate the data by sex, age, and disability.
- Monitoring of compliance with accessibility standards.

II. Principle of unbroken chain of movement:

Accessibility inside and outside buildings and structures is built around the principle of an unbroken chain of movement. The RECU (Reach, Enter, Circulate, Use) chain of movement is easy to remember:

- How to **reach** an area, site, or structure: (requires accessibility of roads, transportation, signage, etc.). The structure should also be on the ground level where possible.
- How to **enter** the structure and its parts (requires steps, ramps, handrails, wide doorways, appropriate door handles, etc.).
- How to **circulate** inside the structure (requires wide corridors and doors, absence of high steps and thresholds, resting places, adequate light, clear and adapted signage, etc.).
- How to **use** the structure and its facilities (requires appropriate dimensions and design of internal furniture, equipment, information, and communications, etc.)

Tip: Accessible toilets follow this same concept with a specific easy way to remember *Getting There, *Getting In *Getting On

III. Common Mistakes:¹

- Doors are too narrow (less than 0.90m), and the doorway cannot be entered by a standard or larger wheelchair.
- Ramps are sometimes installed but they are too steep (over 5%), or unsafe as there is no landing space at the top or bottom to move/turn in a wheelchair, or without handrails or kerbs.
- Accessible toilets exist but the door opens inwards instead of outwards, which takes up needed moving space (a radius less than 1.5m). Similarly, furniture in other rooms is often placed in a way that limits movement.
- Accessible toilets exist but they are used as storage space or kept locked, so they are unusable.
 - The main building is accessible but the pathways leading to it are inaccessible/unreachable or unsafe, for example, unmaintained or steep, or with stepped paths, slippery tiles or construction in or across the pathway. Shelter is also often provided in a geographical isolated location away from community and support.

IV. Cost of accessible construction:

Providing fully accessible facilities, if planned, designed, and implemented from the outset is cheaper than making adaptations later. The cost of not incorporating universal design can be significant. Inaccessible environments limit economic, education, health, social and other opportunities for persons with disabilities and make them more dependent on others.²

Note: Many accessibility features can be constructed and procured inside Ukraine, which significantly reduces costs.

V. Accessibility resources:



Download **Humanitarian Hands-On Tool** from Apple app store or Google Play <https://hhot.cbm.org/> Available in English and Ukrainian. Has 'cards' on accessibility, doors, hand rails etc.



Global resources also include:

- ISO [Building construction Accessibility and usability of the build environment ISO/FDIS21542](#)
- UNICEF [Accessibility Toolkit](#)
- UNICEF [Accessibility Toolbox](#)
- IOM Iraq's [Accessible Construction Toolkit](#)
- UNICEF [Accessibility Checklists](#)
- IFRC's [All Under One Roof: Disability-inclusive shelter and settlements in emergencies](#)
- CBM's [16 minimum requirements for building accessible shelters in English](#) and [in Ukrainian](#)

VI. Ukraine specific accessibility guidelines:

The Government of Ukraine has the following accessibility regulations that were elaborated taking into consideration the international standards:

[Inclusivity in buildings and edifices. Key provisions DBN B.2.2.-40:2018 \(with amended No1\)](#)

The Government of Ukraine also has many [other regulations](#) on various objects and buildings (for example [pre-school buildings](#), [educational buildings](#), and [health facilities](#)) that include accessibility requirements inside each document. These regulations are mandatory for implementation during construction in Ukraine.

In addition:

- National Assembly of Persons with Disabilities in Ukraine (NAPD) has produced the [Guidance on accessible shelter collective centres](#) with support from EDF and CBM, and the [Recommendations on ensuring the accessibility of facilities for temporary or permanent accommodation of persons with disabilities](#) in collaboration with NGO "Pro.UD Universal Design" on request by UNDP.
- Big City Lab urban bureau at the "Barrier-Free" initiative by First Lady Olena Zelenska created [Barrier-Free Solutions Album](#)