

Persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies

Ukraine

Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability
organisation SUSTENTO
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INTRODUCTION

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?



STATISTICS

Some data

- In Ukraine, before the start of the war, over 2.7 million persons with disabilities were registered.
- The UN Refugees Agency estimates that, as of July 2022, 13% of the families fleeing Ukraine had at least one member with a disability.



PERSONAL NARRATIVES

Irina

Iryna is Ukrainian professional archer (a four-time Paralympian).

She was in Dubai when war started.

There were explosions about 40 km from where we lived.

My 16 years old son with disabilities was at home alone. No one knows how to help him.



REMEMBER

1

The critical need for robust preparedness and evacuation plans. Families must have clear plans for emergencies.

2

Strengthening local organizations to ensure they have the capacity to support individuals with disabilities during emergencies.

3

First responders and emergency services must be trained to assist people with disabilities effectively.

4

Increasing public awareness about the specific challenges faced by people with disabilities during emergencies to foster a more supportive and responsive community.

PERSONAL NARRATIVES

Olga and Roman

While most of their neighbors could hear air raid sirens warning of an incoming strike in northeastern Kharkiv, Olga and her husband Roman had to rely on the buzz of a text alert.

Sometimes we'd see people running around frantically, and we wouldn't know what was going on. ... We want to run, too, but where?



REMEMBER

1

Establishing clear and reliable communication channels to ensure that all receive timely information during emergencies.

2

Enhancing accessible smartphone applications that provide real-time emergency information.

3

Governments need to implement multiple modes of alert systems, such as visual alarms, text messages, and vibration alerts.

4

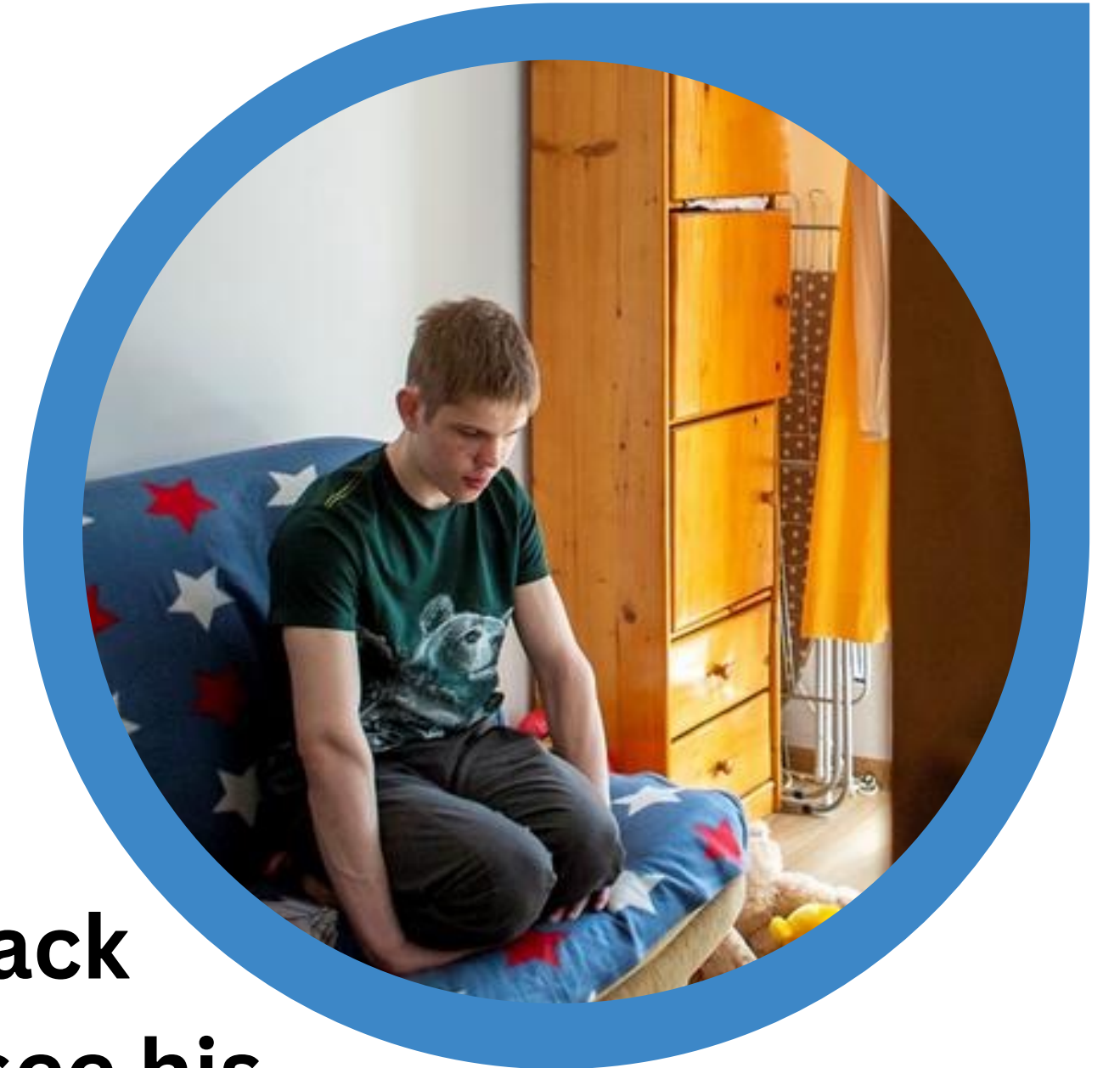
Establishing mechanisms to monitor and enforce the implementation of inclusive emergency systems

PERSONAL NARRATIVES

Anton

Natalia and her 20-year-old son Anton, who has autism and severe epilepsy, had to leave their town in Eastern Ukraine. The evacuation left Anton in a fragile state, much more sensitive to noise and crowds.

The fact that he is not able to go back home, the fact that he may never see his cat, which he considered his best friend, now leads to all undesirable circumstances



REMEMBER

1

It is crucial to provide adequate mental health and emotional support, including access to counselors and therapists.

2

Displacement should not interrupt essential medical treatments and medications.

3

Evacuation plans need to consider the specific needs of individuals sensitive to noise and crowds.

4

Efforts should be made to recreate a stable environment as much as possible.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The stories of Iryna, Olga and Roman, and Natalia and Anton highlight the unique challenges faced by individuals with disabilities during emergencies and displacement. These real-life experiences emphasize the urgent need for **inclusive, accessible, and comprehensive emergency preparedness and response plans that cater to the specific needs of individuals with disabilities.**

